TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 1995

SWEATER GIRLS

The Sixties revisited with neater knits

PRIDE AND PLEASE.

Big boost for police in CPS shake-up

Reforms will bring more cases to court

DONALD MACINTYRE

The Government is planning major reforms of the Crown Prosecution Service to quell police frustration and criticism from victims over the rising number of prosecutions dropped before they reach court.

In a significant change of policy, Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attomey General, has undertaken an internal review of the CPS's functions and is shortly to put proposals to ministers designed to improve public confidence in the agency.

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Among the changes ministers will consider are: basing some CPS lawyers at major police stations; a relaxation of the '51 per cent chance of conviction" rule that the CPS uses in deciding whether to pursue cases; and giving the police a mechanism by which they can challenge CPS decisions not to pursue prosecutions.

further sign of the Government's determination to secure its law and order platform in the run-up to the general election. and are likely to meet with the seriously indeed - the idea of strong approval of Michael placing CPS lawyers either in

Howard, the Home Secretary. sistent pressure for several months from Jack Straw, the back up for police officers Shadow Home Secretary, for a preparing cases for prosecution. full-scale review of the CPS to deal with what Mr Straw working relations between po-

lice Federation in May was a Service are of the essence of fair "crisis of confidence in the

criminal justice system."
Although at official level the Association of Chief Police Officers has continued to stress itsr close working relationship with the CPS, there have been widespread unofficial complaints from Senior and middle-ranking police offers both over the "discontinuance" of prosecutions and what they see as a tendency by the CPS to "play safe" by commuting original police

charges to lesser ones. There have been complaints from police officers and victims about a CPS practice - sometimes in return for guilty pleas on the part of the defendant to to change wounding charges to the lesser one of Actual Bodily Harm and Actual Bodily Harm charges to those of

The Attorney disclosed in the Commons yesterday that he was already working on plans to install Crown Prosecution The plans will be seen as a lawyers in police stations to improve liaison between officers and the prosecuting authorities. Sir Nicholas said: "It is something we are thinking about very police stations or administrative units." Such units provide the

Sir Nicholas added: "Close claimed in a speech to the Po- lice and the Crown Prosecution

and efficient prosecution."

But Sir Nicholas's plan to improve liaison between police and prosecutions is only part of a wider ranging package of re-forms which include a greater flexibility in applying the rigid tests by which the CPS decides that it has a better than even chance of securing conviction before a case goes to court.

At the same time, he is understood to be working on proposals to allow a "second look" after the CPS has decided to drop a particular prosecution because it judges that it does not have a sufficient chance of success in court

This would allow the police an effective right of appeal in cases in which it believed that a prosecution was fully in the public interest.

In his May speech to the Police Federation Mr Straw proposed a series of changes to the CPS to take account of the fact that by 1993 the total number of offences had more than doubled to over 5.5 million but the number of people cautioned or convicted had failen from 556,000 in 1980 to 517,000.

Mr Straw said last night: This is a major change of heart by the government in reto Labour's proposal, the question is whether the Attorney General's proposals will match the need for change when they

Prosecutors' bias', page 2

After 10 hours, 45 minutes ... Welfare war



England's heroes: Michael Atherton, left, who resisted the South African bowlers for 645 minutes, leaving the field with Jack Russell after the pair had saved the second Test in Johannesburg

Photograph: Laurence Griffiths / Empics

British Gas smear was fed to Labour

CHRIS BLACKHURST

An internal British Gas memorandum containing inaccurate information about a competitor was handed to the Labour Party; which quoted from the document under the cloak of parliamentary privilege.

This new revelation follows the disclosure in the Independent yesterday of the tactics being employed by Angus Maitland, a public relations adviser to British Gas, in handing out anonymous documents critical of Clare Spottiswoode, directorgeneral of the watchdog Ofgas.

United Gas, the new com-petitor to British Gas, called last night for "Ofgas or alternatively the Department of Irade and Industry to launch an official investigation to establish both the source of, and the authority behind, this anonymous ma-

IN BRIEF

More than 1,600 staff at Swalec, the South Wales electricity dis-

tributor, will make a £21,000-a-

head profit on share options in

the wake of an agreed £872m takeover from Cardiff-based

utility, Welsh Water. Page 21

Fifteen years after the sinking

of the 90,000-tonne Derbyshire,

Britain's largest merchant navy

loss, a £2m underwater investi-

gation into the disaster is to be

Very cold across the UK, with

snow settling in some eastern as well as helping struggling

areas. Section Two, page 21 artists in need of a lifeline.

Swalec bonanza

Disaster inquiry

The company said it had been concerned for some time about attempts to discredit it. Roger Turner, managing direc-tor of United, said: "We deplore this kind of cowardly behaviour. If other companies, or other persons retained by those companies, wish to raise allegations about United Gas, they

United was particularly concerned about references in the Commons in March by Jack Cunningham, then Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, that TransCo, the distribution arm of British Gas, was "having problems with United,

should do so openly rather than in this covert fashion."

which is not paying its bills". Mr Cunningham was quoting directly from a memorandum prepared for a meeting of British Gas's public relations team, headed by Peter Santerial. We also reserve all our guinetti, the company's public rights to legal redress and we affairs director. The memo set will be considering our position out a timetable of "events annonnements" affecting the PR

DAVID LISTER

Arts Correspondent

Plans to fund new operas, plays,

paintings and ballets with mon-

ey from the National Lottervare

being considered by Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage.

Such changes, which would not need legislation, could have

the bizarre result of publicly

funded companies commis-

sioning wealthy playwrights

such as Harold Pinter or Tom

Stoppard out of lottery takings,

machine. Against the entry for early January 1995 was written: "TransCo will have a problem with United, who are not

paying their bills."
United was stung by the remarks, which it said were completely unjustified. It told Dr Cunningham that the problem was of TransCo's own making. because the British Gas subsidiary had been performing badly, and its customers, including United had decided to withhold cash until the prob-lems had been resolved.

British Gas's rival compared the charge to the "dirty tricks" campaign waged by British Airways which made unfounded allegations of non-payment of bills against its upstart challenger, Virgin Atlantic. In his reply to United's com-plaint, Dr Cunningham sug-

with British Gas. Margaret McKinlay, head of nce at British Gas, wrote

dance and drama students on

discretionary grants who have

been hit hard by local authori-

While these alterations to the

lottery might find favour in the

arts world they would risk

charges of élitism elsewhere,

and questions as to why painters

and playwrights should not take

their chances in the marketplace

with everyone else. Students

who are not on art courses will

also want a share of lottery mon-

The Arts Council chairman,

Lord Gowrie, is determined to

ey to help boost their grants.

ty cuts in recent years.

gested United take it up directly

he was still there at the end

MARTIN JOHNSON Johannesburg

England's cricket team, not famous for too many famous victories in recent years, at least managed to pull off a famous draw yesterday. Michael Atherton, the captain, and Jack Russell, the wicketkeeper, batted throughout most of the final day to deny South Africa in Johannesburg, and keep the fivematch series level at 0-0 with

three Tests still to play.

Atherton, making his ninth
Test match century, batted right through the final day for his best score for England, his heroic 182 not out spanning ten and three-quarter hours in all. TURN TO PAGE 2 | Atherton was on the field with-

help for the arts from the lot-

tery. At present lottery funds are

intended mainly for capital projects such as new buildings. He

will urge that this be extended

to new work such as plays and

operas on the grounds that

these are just as much new cre-

is little point in giving lottery

money to new buildings when

the council, after a cash cut of

£5m, cannot afford to fund the

Arts Council officials are

work going on inside them.

currently having discussions

He will also argue that there

ations as buildings.

out a break from Friday after-noon right up until the end of

the game last night. Russell, who not so long ago spent a long period out of the side because of his perceived deficiencies as a batsman, joined his captain in what appeared to be a hopeless cause with half of England's second innings wickcts gone and nearly five hours of the match still remaining. Russell was almost entirely strokeless for his 25 not out, but

was still there at close of play. Atherion's performance, rated by his manager Raymond Illingworth as "one of the great Test innings" and by the South African coach Bob Woolmer as "brilliant", ranked as a rearguard action alongside Dennis

partment of National Heritage

that both sides were united in

wanting to extend the scope of

the lattery to commission new

work. The source confirmed

tery money being used to com-

mission new work from

established writers such as Pin-

ter and Stoppard, but the main

thrust would be towards com-

panies commissioning new,

Mrs Bottomley was disap-

pointed with Treasury cuts to the

young artists.

\$ (33) C ●

An Arts Council insider said

on extending the lottery.

Amiss's 262 not out (nine hours) in Jamaica in 1974, and David Gower's 154 not out (nearly eight hours) on the

same ground in 1981. England, who began the final day written off at 167 for 4, lost only the wicket of Robin Smith before finishing at 351 for 5. A crowd of 14,000 had turned up in anticipation of a South African victory, but most had disappeared long before the

England have a long history of losing early matches and failing to come back in Test series, but now have a pyschological advantage before the final three games in Durban, Port Elizabeth and Cape Town.

Report, scorecard, page 28

Lottery cash may fund new plays They would also benefit press Mrs Bottomley for more with civil servants from the Dearts and last week publicly emphasised "the need to invest in

people". Giving bursaries to dance and drama students is being seen as one way of investing in people and the National Heritage Secretary has also said that that this could indeed mean lot- the lottery needs to help the





section

mounted.

Today's weather

BUSINESS 20-24 COMMENT 18,19 CROSSWORD 28 GAZETTE 16 LAW REPORT 16 LEADING ARTICLES 18 LETTERS 18 NEWS 2-15 OBITUARIES 16 SHARES 23 SPORT 15-28 UNIT TRUSTS 24

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puts France on the edge

MARY DEJEVSKY

The French government was attempting to stand firm last night as it braced for a new and possibly decisive day of national protest today against its proposed welfare reforms.

After an emergency cubinet meeting the government spokesman, Alain Lamassoure. said the authorities were determined to carry out reforms, especially an overhaul of the

veltare system. and lorry drivers joined the nationwide strikes against the reform of France's 50-year-old welfare system yesterday. Today tens, maybe hundreds, of thousands of workers, students and trade union activists are expected to join a protest march along the right bank of the Seine in central Paris while, at the National Assembly on the left bank, the Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, will mount his first maior defence of his reforms since the protests began. Mr Juppe will answer a mo-

tion of censure tabled by the opposition Socialist group in the National Assembly, breaking a silence on the reforms that has become deafening in recent days. Although there is no risk of the censure motion being passed - the Opposition parties combined have barely 20 per cent of parliamentary seats - the occasion gives the Prime Minister, and the government, a meant renewed traffic jams chance to gauge the strength of morning and evening. With 80 their programme.

Speaking in the west African state of Benin on Sunday evening, in a section of an address which was immediately rebroadcast in France, President Jacques Chirac, insisted that the choice of reform rather than "fatalism" was his, and that he would stand by it. Mr Chirac's intervention, believed to have been co-ordinated with Mr Juppé, provided the Prime Minister with urgently needed

exclude the President from the mediating role some have said he should take should the

crisis worsen. Yesterday, with new groups of workers joining, or threatening to join, the strike and today's demonstration almost hourly, the government made its first altempt to limit the effects of the strikes on those who are still working. It bired 1,700 coaches to transport commuters from Paris suburbs into the capital and home again in the evening. Power workers, hospital staff and a boat service to connect the eastern and western extremities



However, fewer than 400 coaches were available for the morning rush hour, which now on strike, a few regions set up emergency services, but the country remained paralysed.

The national rail service remains at a standstill, as does local public transport in Paris and several other cities. Airline workers again occupied the runways at Orly airport yesterday, blocking domestic air traffic for several hours.

France in Revolt, pages 10 and 11 Hamish McRae, page 22



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Labour acts over

'problem' council labour's National Executive

knock heads together in the "fraught" ruling Labour group on Hackney council, in north London, following its rancorous

split earlier this year, it was re-

vealed yesterday.

"The problem is an unwill-

ingness of some councillors to

take tough decisions." said a

Labour spokesman, citing the

reluctance to close the under-performing Hackney Downs

chool. "Every suggestion for

making cuts is voted down by

one coalition or another."

Since leader John McCafferty

was ousted in May, Labour has

been worried a local difficulty

could escalate into a national

embarrassment. The decision to

intervene, taken by the NEC last

week but not publicised, fol-

Maritime mystery: Victims' families hope truth will finally be established 15 years after ship sank in Pacific

New inquiry into loss of 'Derbyshire'

Transport Correspondent

A £2m underwater investigation is to be mounted 15 years after the sinking of the 90,000-tonne Derbyshire, Britain's largest merchant navy loss, in an effort to ascertain the cause of the

The decision by Sir George Young Secretary of State for Transport, to mount the expedition was made after he read a report by the former Master of the Rolls, Lord Donaldson, into the loss of the ship, published yesterday. Lord Donaldson argues that the need for the inquiry is "compelling" be-

Police

accused

of forcing

trials on

lawyers

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Chuck Nduka-Eze's experience

illustrates the day-to-day con-

flicts between the police and the

Crown Prosecution Service over

Until this summer he worked as a senior Crown prosecutor in

London, bringing cases to Bow

Street magistrates' court. He left

his job after a row which brought

to a head his concerns that the CPS was too often taking the police's word for it that a prose-

cution was sound, and was not

rigorously independent enough.

The CPS was set up to give

an independent assessment of

cases, away from the police. We

have to decide two things: there

must be a 'realistic prospect of

conviction and it must be in the

public interest to go ahead. Those are judgements we are

supposed to make, not the po-

lice," he said.
"The police don't care. Their

view is: 'This man has done it.

He accepts that there has to

The advice in his office was:

be give and take with the police,

in the pressured circumstances

"Best keep on the right side of the police", and there was pres-

sure on him to be "a good team

"By law I should be allowed

He said different CPS office

bosses took different views of

their relationship with the police.

Some backed their prosecutors

more than others when they

complained of undue pressure.

He contends that his boss did not

Mr Nduka-Eze, 32, a barris-

ter, has now returned to the Bar

and is suing the CPS for breach

of contract and taking his case to

an industrial tribunal claiming that he was forced out of his job

after resisting police pressure to

bend the rules. The CPS has said it intends to defend the cases

strenuously but would not com-

ment on details of the allegations.

wrest control from prosecutors.

FROM PAGE ONE

from British Gas.

to United explaining that the

company could not be respon-

sible for Dr Cunningham's

words. She added the compa-

ny was holding a leak inquiry.

Dr Cunningham said last

night that he did not get the in-

formation on which he based his

Commons statement "directly

When the case of a man

Mr Nduke-Eze described a

Mr Nduke-Eze described a late for him to see the papers, case late last year which he says but offered to go into the wit-

illustrates the way police can ness box to say the man was dan-

back him early adequately.

say I was not happy with any

case. That was my role."

Let's get him into court'."

of a magistrates' court.

which cases to take to trial.

STEPHEN WARD

cause of the widespread impli-cations for seafarers in the 400 bulk carriers now sailing the world. Between 1980 and 1994. 149 bulk carriers have been lost with the deaths of 1,144 seafarers, including nine losses with 123 deaths last year.

The decision is a vindication of a 15-year battle by the families of the 44 who died on the ship and by international trade unions to reopen the inquiry into the loss of the Derbyshire, which was carrying iron ore. They have argued that the sink-ing points to basic structural design flaws and last year the International Transport Workers Federation paid £400,000 for

Question of justice: Crown prosecutor complains of 'undue pressure' by officers

an underwater investigation of the ship which lies 4,100 metres (13.451ft) down in the Pacific off lapan. Pictures taken during that expedition led to Lord Donaldson's inquiry.

Lord Donaldson expressed the hope that the expedition could take place next spring be-cause of his fears for the "sailors put at risk" if it cannot be prepared in time. A previous inquiry into the

Chuck Nduka-Eze: Says the CPS is not independent enough Photograph: David Sandison

put pressure on him. Eventually,

he had to to along with the sug-gestion, and the police got the

remand in custody they wanted.

he found the woman had no

When he later saw the papers,

For the Liberal Democrats,

Nick Harvey said: "Mr Maitland

there are criticisms to be made

of utility regulators, let us have

them done properly and open-

A British Gas spokeswoman last night said the company was not to blame for Dr Cun-

nigham's comments. "It was

has done himself no favours. If

the then transport secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, in 1991. loss, in 1985-86, was felt to have Although the trade union expedition found the fore secits leaked draft conclusion sugtion of the ship, the aft part has not yet been found. Lord Don-aldson said that if the new exgested that the accident was caused by a structural failure, the final version merely said that pedition discovered it well separated from the aft, "say five no cause could be ascertained

When a sister ship of the Derkilometres", then structural byshire, the Kowloon Bridge, break-up was the likely cause of sank with suspicions that it had what is one the "great unexsimilar structural faults to those plained mysteries" of the sea. on the Derbyshire the inquiry Lord Donaldson identified was reopened but it found that three possible causes of the sink-"the Derbyshire was probably ing: structural failure at Frame 65, which is close to the engine overwhelmed by the forces of nature in Typhoon Orchid". room and crew accommodation; the failure of the front hatch Renewed attempts to reopen the inquiry were rejected by cover under pressure from

> serious implications. Lord Donaldson said no sig-nificant design changes had been made to bulk carriers since the accident.

> Hatch covers now, as when the Derbyshire was built, were

The majority of lone children ar-

riving in Britain to seek asylum are not economic migrants but victims of war and civil distur-

bance, it was claimed vesterday.

a clampdown on the unaccom-

panied arrivals following a 67

per cent increase in their num-

bers, solicitors and refugee

workers described the condi-

their homelands.

tions which forced them to flee

Tim Kirkhope, the Home

Mohamed (not his real name)

was abducted from the streets of

Peshawar, Pakistan, and forced

to carry ammunition for Afghan

The bullets were in little

boxes and some were in long

straps, he has told his solicitors

at Peter Bartram and Co.

Grenades looked like a little ball

with a pin in the top and a

kalashnikov was different from

other kinds of guns. One of the bigger guns needed a tripod, he

It is not the detail you would

expect from a 15-year-old who

can neither read nor write and

who has never seen a television.

shouldered his heavy loads in

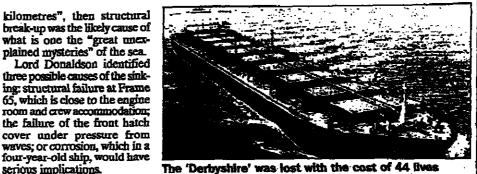
the mountains on the Afghan-

istan border. He has described

Like a beast of burden, he

rebels, writes Louise Jury.

As the Government prepares



designed to withstand a less-

than 6ft head of water, whereas in severe conditions pressures could be much greate Lord Donaldson said: "I per-

are 'victims of war'

children's parents for sending

them to an "uncertain future"

and said he believed many were

economic migrants sent to

Britain because their families

top 600 by the end of the year,

Mr Kirkhope said, at an esti-

mated annual cost to the tax-

licitors said although family

poverty was a factor in some cas-

es, many young people faced conscription or risked physical

would blow his leg off, instead

overnight, he has said, and was

of the munitions was shot did

to him, members of Mohamed's

family smuggled him on board a plane in Pakistan. He was told

to keep down, stay quiet. He ar-

rived alone and unannounced

at Heathrow airport four weeks

ago. He is claiming asylum and

is intensely worried about be-

knowing whether his story is

true, but they believe that it is.

The solicitors have no way of

he see his chance to escape.

only ever let out to work.

He was kept locked up

Only when the man in charge

Fearing what would happen

of disabling the tank.

But refugee workers and so-

Numbers are expected to

could not support them.

payer of £12m.

Escape from clutches

of Afghan guerrillas

sonally find this quite aston-ishing, whether or not it is es-tablished that this was the cause, or a contributory cause,

to safety to ensure the family

Peter Bartram, a solicitor whose practice lies near

Heathrow airport, said they had seen youngsters from coun-tries like Afghanistan who had

already seen frontline action.

Official figures showed that

line was preserved.

lowed a request from new coun-cil leader, Nick Tallentire. 'Mad cow' row

Child asylum-seekers Professor Jeffrey Almond, chairman of the independent Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee, a working group investigating mad cow disease, condemned Ministry of Agriculture cuts at one of the main centres investigating the disease. The loss of £330,000 at the Neuropathogenesis Unit, in Edinburgh, which will cost up to 15 of 50 jobs, is "scandalous" and "crazy", he said. In families already devastated by civil unrest or fighting, often the eldest son would be sent

Mitchell sets date

The first hearings of the international body dealing with the decommissioning of IRA and Loyalist paramilitary weapons, chaired by US Senator George Mitchell, were set for 15 to 18 of this month. Girl's £1.7m award

one of the Labour Party's

biggest and most right-wing af-filiates. Mr Hall, 44, an official

Jordan in the New Year.

famine and civil war have a sig-A brain-damaged girl was nificant impact on numbers. Mr Bartram noted increases awarded £1.7m after a High Court judge watched a "mov-ing" video of her and her mothfrom Eritrea during its war and from Sierra Leone during rebel er. West London Hammersmith

they haven't actually been in personal danger, their family has often suffered tragedies. They are often very, very isolated. Not only have they been separated from their families, but arriving here, they are in a

The majority are around the age of 16 and few are younger than 14. Terry Smith, of the children's division of the Refugee Council, said that the increase was undoubted but also marked better identification procedures

As soon as lone arrivals are

Davey Hali, a candidate backed by the left, was elected leader of the Amalgamated Engineering and Electrical Union,

by immigration officials.

sponsibility of social services. Roy Mills, spokesman for Hillingdon council which covers Heathrow, said they cur-rently have 144 children under 18 costing the authority £2.8 million a year. Unless a relative was how the rebels made him walk There have been other cases of traced in Britain, most then re

risings. Mr Bartram said: "Even if and Queen Charlotte's Hospital Special Health Authority ad-

mitted negligence in their care of Maureen Helliwell hours before the birth in 1987 of her daughter Elizabeth, now eight, who suffered cerebral palsy. Union turns left

even had no idea which coun-

identified, they become the re-

Algerian exile 'facing death by deportation'

PETER VICTOR

An Algerian former policeman married to a British woman is today being deported to face what his friends fear is certain

death. Hocine Dib, 29, who has lived in Britain for the last two rears, was due to be deported by British immigration authorities at 6am today on the grounds that he is an illegal immigrant. His pleas for political asylum have been ignored, despite mass murder and terror in his home country.

In the past three years, 40,000 people have been killed in Algiers; some 50 people get mur-dered every night. The GIA (Armed Islamic Group) in Algeria specifically targets po-licemen, journalists and people with links to the West. The authorities have killed in cold blood people they suspect of sup-porting the fundamentalists. Mr Dib's wife, Patti, a teacher,

said after visiting him yesterday at Rochester prison: "I now have the choice between losing my husband or leaving my mother behind to live in a country the Home Office says is too dangerous for Britans to visit. Mr Dib arrived in Britain in



Hocine Dib: 'Could be in danger from either side'

and applied for asylum. The couple married a year later. The Home Office said because he arrived as a tourist and then claimed asylum he was auto-

matically an illegal immigrant. The couple went through the usual immigration formalities. Last June after a joint interview with the immigration service they were told to be can-tiously optimistic. Last week, Mr Dib was summoned by the anyone in Nigeria who is disaf-fected with the regime can just come here in a blanket way."

Home Office for an immigra-tion "interview". On arrival he was arrested, told he would be deported and taken to Southwark police station and then

"He only joined the police be-cause he liked detective work. People arrive in Algiers and don't even make it through customs.

spokesman said he would not discuss individual cases.

terday defended plans to send a democracy activist back to Nigeria. Abiodun Igbinidu claims he faces persecution and torture at bome, where nine human rights campaigners, including the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, were executed last month. Immigration minister Ann Widdecombe said: "Obviously we simply can't say that

Heathrow Airport.
Mrs Dib said: "He could be

in danger from either side. The extremists are still dangerous and the police might want to interview him because he deserted his post.

The couple's lawyer is now considering applying for a judicial review. A Home Office

■ A Home Office minister yes-

BACK ESTURS

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RAILWAY MAN **SAVE £4.00**

the Vice Squad turned up too

gerous and there was a risk of

harm to the woman. He refused,

Labour joined the contro-

versy yesterday and called for an inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading into the attacks on Ms

Spottiswoode and United's

threat of legal action. Nigel Grif-fiths, the party's trade and in-

dustry spokesman, said he

would be writing to the OFT

and "ministers should also in-

charged with assault and living off immoral earnings came up at Bow Street, a constable from at Bow Street, a constable from and said he needed time to convictions for prostitution, and the couple had three children and had been living together for in a different area.

Gas smear was fed to Labour

books with savings of a lifetime?

13 years with no allegations to

the police for violence.

The police complained formally about Mr Nduke-Eze,

and although his version of

events was eventually accepted

leaked. United took it up with

us and we have given them a full

Responding to the article in

yesterday's Independent about Mr Maitland's activities, the

spokeswoman said: "There is no

from the offices of British Gas,

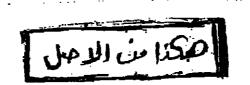
and to suggest such a thing is

account and apologised."

you must be in Waterstone's

biography section. WATERSTONE'S

Albert Speer: His Battle with Truth, Gitta Sereny. Macmillan; hardback. 17p £25.00 now only £19.99. The Railway Man, Eric Lomax. Jonathan Cape; hardback. 17p £15.99 now only £11.99. Offers that speak volumes about Christmas at Waterstone's.



od Morning and

from Tyne and Wear, beat the official right-wing candidate by 74,060 votes to 50,564 in a postal ballot on a turnout of 28 per cent. He takes over from Bill Man's head pierced A factory worker who pulled a superheated steel rod out of his head with his hands after an accident in 1991 was awarded an estimated £1m damages afte the High Court was told he was now a "helpless nobody". An 85metre-long bar, heated to between 500 and 700C, went right

lloval div

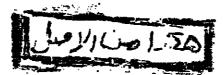
through 28-year-old Kelvin Page's skull after it shot off a cooling bed at Co Steel UK factory in Sheemess, Kent. He suffered severe brain damage. The firm did not dispute liability. Divorce vote appeal

The Dublin High Court gave the chairman of the Anti-Divorce Campaign, former senator Des Hanafin, leave to appeal against the result of last month's Irish divorce referendum. He maintained it was passed only after "unlawful and unconstitutional" use of public funds to promote a pro-divorce victory.

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MP's wife 'made obscene calls to neighbour'

REBECCA FOWLER

The wife of David Ashby, the Tory MP, made obscene phone calls to a neighbour, suggesting he was having a homosexual af-fair with her husband, it was

claimed in court yesterday. Dr Ciaran Kilduff, 32, who fived in the flat beneath Mr. Ashby's told a libel jury that following the collapse of her mar-riage Silvana Ashby, 53, left at least three abusive messages on his answering machine in October 1993, before he changed his telephone number.

The gist of the messages was I had been having a homosexual affair," Dr Kilduff said. The last call was not a message.

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Man 5 7000 19

Dr Kilduff was giving evidence in the second week of the libel case brought against the Sunday Times and its former editor, Andrew Neil, by Mr Ashby over allegations that he is a homosexual.

Although Mr Ashby has agreed he shared a bed with Dr Kilduff on a trip to France to save money, he denies the newspaper's allegations, and both he and Dr Kilduff deny they were physically intimate.

Dr Kilduff, who spoke in a soft Irish accent, dismissed the allegation as "nonsense". Dr Kilduff had agreed to the French trip, provided it was police.

it was just a tirade of obsceni-ties." carefully budgeted, because he believed Mr Ashby was depressed by a furious argument with his wife over Christmas

> Mrs Ashby allegedly arrived at their flat in Putney, south-west London, on Christmas Eve 1993, after Mr Ashby refused her invitation to Christmas lunch because he had arranged to spend it with Dr Kil-

Dr Kilduff denied that Mrs Ashby had seen Mr Ashby put his arm around him through the kitchen window, where he was preparing a salad supper. He said she caused a commotion and eventually he had to call the



David Ashby and his daughter Alexandra

Her behaviour was absolutely bizarre. I certainly

Kilduff, who was working with psychiatric patients at the time. hadn't seen anything like it outside my work place," said Dr zy. She was in a complete frenzy. She wasn't making any sense She was in a complete fren-

his study and start ripping the walipaper off the wall.

Dr. Kilduff travelled to France with Mr Ashby in the new year. On the second day they went to Agincourt in north-west France and then to the nearby Chateau Tilque hotel. Dr Kilduff accepted a douhle room which he said he

expected to be twin-hedded. We went into the room and somewhat to my surprise it wasn't twin-bedded, it had one very large double bed." Dr Kilduff said, although he later added he was used to sharing a bed with his brothers as a child because he had so many siblings. Anyway the fact was we

cold day. I don't think we were affairs. in the mood to go traipsing back down to say this isn't good

Mr Ashby's daughter also gave evidence yesterday. Alexandra Ashby, 27, described her parents termented marriage, and said she felt forced to support her father in the case against her mother's claims. although she loved them "deeply" and "equally".

enough.

As Mr and Mrs Ashby sat at separate ends of the courtroom. Miss Ashby portrayed their frequent fights in which her mother, prone to "exaggeration and invention", accused her father of both

a she then proceeded to go into were there. It had been a long homosexual and heterosexual

Among those her mother named were a male parliamentary researcher, a male harrister friend, and a woman from his constituency, Leices-

tershire North West. Miss Ashby also said her mother had accused her of being a lesbian when she was 15 because she shared a changing booth with a girlfriend on an private Italian beach during a family holiday.

"I don't know what provoked her. Miss Ashby said. She made a big scene in front of all my friends on the beach. It was terrible.

Good Morning and bad blood: Presenter's husband enters fray over ailing show with attack on BBC's production values

How cosy chats on the sofa turned into a daytime drama

MARIANNE MACDONALD Media Correspondent

The cosy image of Good Morning with Anne and Nick was yesterday shattered by accusations of feminism and political cor-rectness in a confrontation worthy of any daytime soap opera.

The row involved Anne Diamond, her husband, her editor and the senior executive in charge of the show in a disagreement which proved that the knives were out behind the

Disagreement has been simmering for months, fuelled by rumours from BBC sources that the show - co-hosted by Nick Owen - was to be axed after steadily losing viewers to This Morning, its slicker ITV rival fronted by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley.

The ITV show pulls in 1.9 million viewers and plandits for its sharpness, sexual chemistry and humour, while Good Morning has been struggling to keep 800,000 viewers in the face of accusations that it is more interested in knitting patterns

But the presenters are not to tonished to learn she had been blame, according to Mike given the job after Ms Diamond Hollingsworth, Anne Dia- and Mr Owen "said quite clearmond's husband and a former editor of the programme. In an attack that will do little to endear his wife to staff, he claimed yesterday that her opinions were ignored by the production team, that she had objected to the appointment of the programme's editor, and that as a presenter she was treated as

"the lowest of the low". He also blamed Rod Natkiel, the executive in overall charge of Good Morning, for refusing to clarify "a very ambiguous statement" about the programme's future - presumably

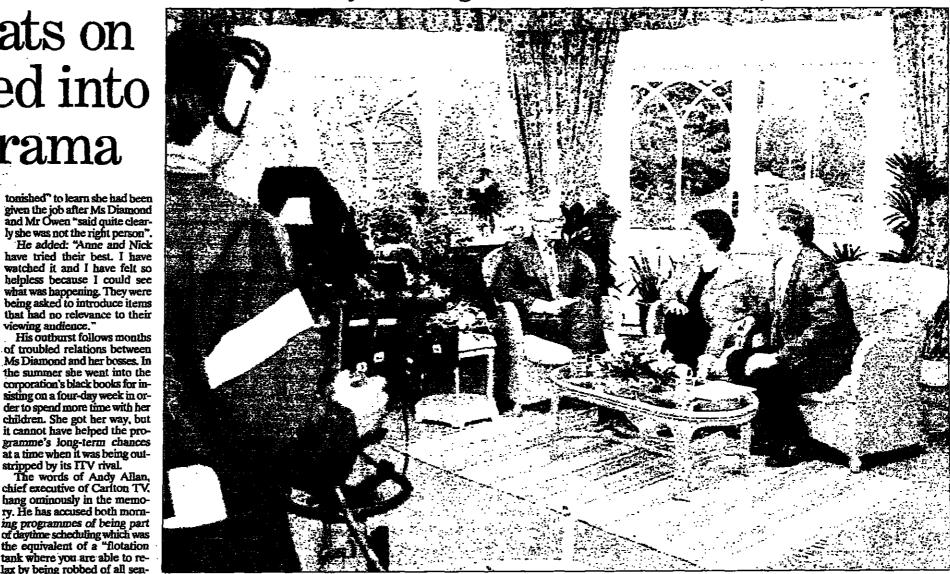
to "generate insecurity". But Mr Hollingsworth reserved the most ire for the programme editor - Tessa Finch, a former Express gossip columnist whom he hired as a researcher and who succeeded him when he left the show two years ago.

"She has nothing in common with the viewers," he said - deof "cold, politically correct, am- tank where you are able to rebitious" young managers. Mr lax by being robbed of all sen-

ly she was not the right person". He added: "Anne and Nick have tried their best. I have watched it and I have felt so

helpless because I could see what was happening. They were being asked to introduce items that had no relevance to their viewing audience. His outburst follows months of troubled relations between Ms Diamond and her bosses. In the summer she went into the corporation's black books for insisting on a four-day week in or-

gramme's long-term chances at a time when it was being outstripped by its ITV rival. The words of Andy Allan, chief executive of Carlton TV. hang ominously in the memory. He has accused both morning programmes of being part of daytime scheduling which was scribing her as one of a breed the equivalent of a "flotation



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How the stars comparein the sofa wars Good Morning, BBC1 Anne Diamond and Nick Owen Judy Finnigen and Richard Medeley 💮 also about £250,000 each Albert Dock Liverpool, but moving to London Pebble Mill, Birmingham Non-existent; they're married to other people. Not bad; they're married The man they nominated as the male half of Britain's most romantic couple was a bisexual who fancied When Richard was accused of shoplifting (he was acquit-Arnold Schwarzenegger John Major revealed he doesn't talk politics at home with Norma, Jamie Blandford revealed his father never hugged him, Denis Healey called Anne a "shit". Keith Chegwin revealed his drinking problem. Antonia de Sancte talked about her affair with David Mellor, Stephanie Steler came face to face with the wife of her iddnapper The entire programme resembles one of the ads for cheap carpets that appear during its commercial breaks; the tacky and plastic, but it's only 10p a yard and it covers a huge area for next-to no cost. Victor Lewis "A gristy mixture of fawning and fumbling, a cackhanded exercise in sponsored time-wasting" - Craig Brown, the

Ministers press for royal divorce

COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

A future role for the Prince of Wales will be discussed along she accepts the discipline such Wales will be discussed along with a role for his estranged wife tonight at an audience at Buckingham Palace between the Queen and the Prime Minister.

Prince Charles has underlined his disappointment in the past with the failure of the Department of Trade and Industry to use him more effectively in selling Britain and British products abroad.

Ministers are opposed to giv-ing the Princess of Wales any diplomatic role abroad, in spite of the apparent success of her visit to Argentina, until her re-lationship with the Prince of Wales has been clarified. She is under pressure either to resolve isters are trying to secure pri-her differences or to agree to vate investment for a more move towards an early divorce.

"What ministers are nervous about is they don't want the Princess to be given a role now that can be used by her as a lever against the Prince of Wales," one ministerial source said.

Ministers and the Palace - de-

scribed by the Princess as "the

responsibility brings.

The move is certain to be seen as an attempt by the Palace and Prince Charles's associates to silence the Princess and end the embarrassment of her outspoken disclosures about her extramarital affair, and her views about his fitness to become King.

John Major and the Queen are also likely to touch on the future of the Royal Yacht Britannia, which is to be sold off. The Ministry of Defence no longer wants to support a replacement, but the DTI values it as a centre to promote British business and exports, and mincost-effective Royal Yacht. The Queen Mother, 95, left hospital yesterday 18 days after her successful hip operation, walking unaided out of the King

Battered wife appeal begins

Home Affairs Correspondent

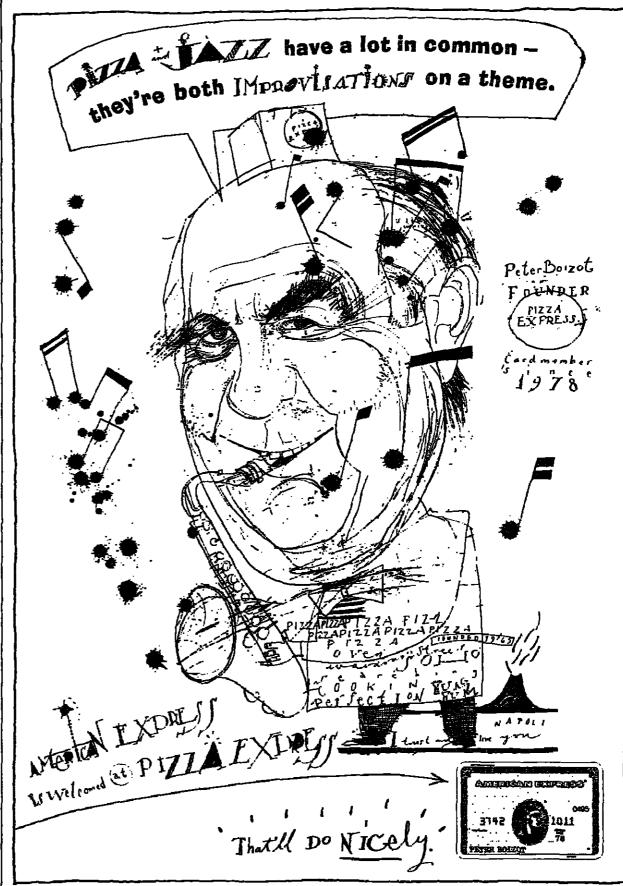
Sara Thornton, a cause célèbre for battered women, yesterday began a second Court of Appeal attempt to overturn her conviction for murdering her drunken, violent busband.

Michael Mansfield QC said Mrs Thornton, now 38, should benefit from changes in both the law and in expert opinion, in relation to battered wives syndrome and defences to murder - particularly the issue of provocation.

Furthermore, there was new evidence - some of it available at her trial and not used - supporting her claims of repeated abuse and drunken violence at the bands of her husband, Malcolm Thornton, Dr Max Glatt, a world authority on alcoholism. who had treated Mr Thornton, had stated that the wives of aicoholies "lived on the edge of a volcano" and could easily snap as a result of provocation Edward VII Hospital for over a long period of time.



the help of friends, ber GP and solicitor, the police, Alcoholics Anonymous and a psychiatrist specialising in alcohol abuse before she killed her husband. Malcolm, a former policeman, on 14 June 1989. With a single deep thrust, she fatally stabbed him in the stomach with a kitchen knife He had been calling her a whore and repeated Mrs Thornton, of Ather-stone, Warwickshire, had sought The appeal continue The appeal continues today.



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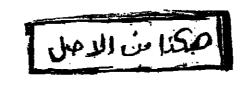
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Rail bids jeopardised by high risk to operators

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR Transport Correspondent

The privatisation of train services is in danger of foundering because of City fears that the investment is too risky.

City investors have told the

Independent that several bids for the first three sets of franchises may collapse because the fi-nancial teams backing them are worried about the high level of risk if unforeseen events mean that the train company is unable to run services. Already one private company, Resurgence Railways, has lost its preferred bidder status because it could not prove its financial case was sound.

In particular, they feel that Railtrack, which is due to be privatised next spring, has been giv-en a cushy ride and been able to cover itself for most of the risks by its contracts with the

train-operating companies.
One City source said: "Rail-track has had a lot of its risk taken away because the Government wants to ensure it can be sold. The access agreement.

should be renegotiated." Railtrack is responsible for the track and signalling. However, under the track-access agreement, there is a cap on Railtrack's liability which means that the burden of any lengthy breakdown on the railway such as a dispute or major signalling failure - will end up with the train operating company, rather than Railtrack, and could lead to massive costs for them.

The source said: "The finance companies are looking at what would happen if a bridge was blown away or a terrorist attack caused a total stoppage for several days or weeks." He added that he thought that a solution could be found, but same kind of financial difficul-Railtrack would have to give

The process of rail privatisation is unique in that government subsidy is underpinning the whole system and therefore the City has been reluctant to will not be met.

come forward. One bidder said: "The City firms all have experts if you want to buy a hotel chain or group of high-street shops, but no one in the City knows anything about the railways."

While many of the bidders have come up with innovative schemes to improve the railways, they are all finding that finance is hard to attract. Candidates need around £40m to mount a bid for one of the big franchises which have turnovers of over £200m per year, and the City is reluctant to but up that sort of sum on the present arrangements which

seem to favour Railtrack. The first three franchises are for South West Trains, operating out of Waterloo; London, Tilbury and Southend services. from Fenchurch Street; and Great Western Railway, the InterCity service running out of Paddington.

Management (MBO) teams are the preferred bidders for the latter two, while Stagecoach and the management team, backed by Compagnie Générale des Eaux are fighting it out for SWT However, Resurgence Railways, the original preferred bidder for Great Western, had to pull out of the race for the franchise because of a failure to obtain backing while the in-house GWR team, which had to find additional financial backing just before the closing date for bids, is also now having difficulties in providing sufficient guarantees for its backers.

The MBO team for LTS is also facing similar problems. While most franchises were supposed to be for seven years, LIS is trying to secure a 15-year deal based on providing new trains, but has now run into the nes as Resurgence.

Ministers will be anxious to ensure that a way round this problem can be found. Otherwise its deadline of letting these franchises before Christmas

Bypass battle: Protesters draw first blood in Newbury 'direct action' campaign



The high ground: Protesters swarm over a stockpile of rock in yesterday's occupation at Whatley Quarry, Somerset Photograph: Christopher Jones

Invaders paralyse road-stone quarry

aggregate. The organisation

hopes that this would force

roadbuilders to use more re-

eveled stone and concrete. A

proposed quarry extension was

rejected last year by John Gum-

mer, the Environment Secre-

tary. ARC has resubmitted the

proposals.

The first of the activists broke

DANNY PENMAN

The opening salvo against the Newbury bypass was fired yes-terday when 500 protesters occupied a superquarry in the Mendips which is expected to supply aggregates for the road. Whatley Quarry, near Frome in Somerset, was stormed at

dawn by activists from Earth First!, Freedom Network and the Green Party.

The quarry - 300ft deep and covering 250 acres - is one of the largest in Europe and supplies aggregates for road

schemes across southern Eng-

land. About 50 people were force a rise in the price of arrested.

The owners of the quarry, ARC, have borne the brunt of a three-year direct action campaign by Earth First! which objects to a proposed extension to the quarry because it says it may threaten the flow of water to the hot springs of Bath, 10 miles to the north, and may also damage a nominated European Special Area of Conscr-vation and Asham Wood, a Site of Special Scientific

the quarry's expansion and so

Interest near to the quarry. Earth First! also wants to stop

path of the trains. Others in-

into the quarry about 5am and began climbing over machinery to force the operators to shut it down. Another group blocked the railway out of the quarry with steel tripods crected in the

vaded offices and the quarry's control centre. Within 15 minutes the quarry was shut down. David Weeks, a spokesman

for the company, said some of the demonstrators had damaged machinery and computer equipment worth about £25,000. The quarry also lost about 20,000 tonnes of aggregate production worth about £50.000. The protest further stopped the movement of about 150 forries

and 120 rail wagons. He said: "It's not so much the lost production nor the disruption - it's the damage to the computer equipment and plant that we regret. The quarry may have to remain closed for another day. It's clearly the lunatic fringe that's come in with the others that did the damage. You have to accept that these people have a point and perhaps the best way of making that point is to stop production."

One of the organisers, who did not wish to be named, said he was "very satisfied" with the day's activities. "It was a show of strength. It shows we can mobilise hundreds of people who are willing to risk acrest - I think we've just touched the tip of the iceberg."

Demand over Leeson papers

Stephen Pollard, the British lawyer of the disgraced futures trader Nick Leeson, has received a Singapore court order to hand over all documents linked to the collapse of Barings Bank, legal sources said yesterday.

Mr Pollard, now back in London, was not available yesterday for comment.

Lawyers for Price Waterhouse, the liquidators of Baring Futures (Singapore), served the order as Mr Pollard left court, said a source who declined to be named.

The order would allow liquidators to look at all documents related to Barings or related to deals made by Leeson, his wife Lisa, or Mr Pollard over Barings. The Singapore inquiry into the collapse of Barings in February with debts of £860m is continuing and is likely to

Nick Leeson was sentenced to six and a half years in jail on Saturday after pleading guilty to two charges of cheating, linked to the bank's demise. He has a week to decide whether to appeal against the sentence.

The papers and documents would include any that provide evidence of assets, contracts and arrangements entered into by either of the Leesons or their agents for the sale of any book, elevision, newspaper or screen rights, the source said.

Under the terms of the order, Mr Pollard is required to appear in a Singapore court at a date

to be decided, the sources said.

Media reports have specufated that Leeson could earn up to £3m from a film about the Barings collapse. Leeson recently signed a book deal, said to be worth in the region of £450.000. There have been numercus unconfirmed rumours of other lucrative contracts with newspapers around the world.

Meanwhile, MPs on the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee, which is to re-open its inquiries into Barings in the New Year, will question

several ex-Barings executives.

Those most likely to be called include Peter Baring, the former chairman, Andrew Tuckey, and Peter Norris, the former head of investment banking.

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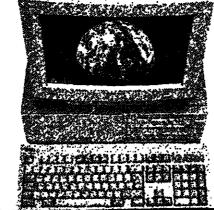
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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CABINET In 1989 a prominent Conservative MP warned the government it was losing its legitimacy

because of its disregard of the democratic process. "Why," ex-Minister Ian Gilmour asked "should the people respect that part of its legislation which is based on whim, diktat and dogma?"

That's a question which many must have hoped the government would address, especially in regard to privatisations. As it was ignored, Action for Justice felt compelled to state in the Financial Times (May 25 1995) that depriving the UK of an integrated rail system without the consent of the people could be considered "tantamount to theft".

Yet Transport Ministers and the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising refused to inform bidders of the respectable case for renationalisation without compensation - though you had been aware as early as March 1994 of the legal precedents by which you could be held liable for loss and damage caused by wilful misconduct.

Though Opraf's refusal to protect public funds provided grounds to apply for a judicial review, we went for the simpler option - to directly contact a number of companies.

In any case, we believe ALL bidders "would have known or should have known" that BR's breakup was a wrongful act, undertaken without moral authority. Under these circumstances. companies would be disqualifying themselves for compensation.

The country is hoping that the upcoming judicial review sought by Save Our Railways will halt the misdirection of funds, though political considerations are likely to tempt you to appeal or go back to the drawing board, throwing good public money after bad. That would be wrong.

But BR is not the only issue at stake. The real question here is to the public. Will enough of us put party politics aside and "tell truth to power"? If so, real change will at last be possible. Together, we the people can salvage meaning from years of waste, mismanagement and suffering.

> Submitted by Suzon Forscey-Moore, Adviser Action for Justice PO Box 54, Cambridge CB5 8BB Tel/Fax: 01223 327634

The A4J Citizens' Initiative states. The standards of conduct which already apply to Local Government should apply to Ministers. The next Government should hold ex-Ministers collectively surchargeable by a public grand jury.

Signatories include. Dr Martin Balluch, H F Batty, Benedict Birnberg, Dr Alan Bullion, Louise Christian, Mat Coward. Jacob Ecclestone, Dr MG Evans, Plantagenet Somerset Fry, Stephen Hawking, Philip Hedley, Ted Honderich, David Howarth, Dr Bob Johnson, Colin Johnson, Ken Loach, Michael Mansfield QC, Sara Maitland, David Marquand,

Dr Arabella Melville, George Monbiot, Suzanne Moore, Robin Page, John Pilger, Suc Rowlands, Vicky Russell, Dr Tom Shakespeare, Janet Smith, Dr Jim Swire, Clifford Tonkin, Arnold Wesker & Jayne Zito,

ons in Local Government have been surcharged and disqualified when: (1) power was not exercised in good faith; (2) relevant factors were ignored; (3) irrelevant factors were considered; (4) actions were manifestly unreasonable; (5) proper procedure was not followed; (6) natural justice was subordinated.)

The A4J BR Petition states; British Rail should be reintegrated with no compensation paid to rail franchisees. Bidders would have ignored a relevant factor, that the government was proceeding with a wrongful act undertaken without moral authority.

I endorse A4J's Citizens' Initiative.......(and/or) I endorse A4J's British Rail Petition..... Name [Block Capitals]......Signature...

I enclose an optional one-off donation of £.....[POs/cheques payable to Action for Justice]

Action for JUSTICE the pro-active non-party campaign for government accountability

Care row: Inquiry launched into county's social services amid allegations of misuse of funds





Lancashire County &

'In distress': Geraldine Robinson, a cerebral palsy sufferer whose home help is being cut, in a social services brochure, left, and at home, above

Handicapped hit by cutbacks

CHRIS BLACKHURST

An inquiry has been launched into allegations of financial mismanagement by a county social services department.

Herbert Laming, the Government's chief inspector of social services, has been asked by the health minister, John Bowis, to look into sweeping cutbacks in care packages by Lancashire social services.

Mr Bowis said he was asking Mr Laming "to provide a full report on the position in Lancashire so that I can then decide whether further action by cen-

tral government is appropriate". The minister was responding to widespread fury in Lancashire about the cuts. In one case a handicapped woman who appears on the cover of a brochure promoting the county's social services has had her home help package slashed by £300 per week.

The parents of Geraldine Robinson, who suffers from cerebral palsy, said they were outraged by the move, which they claim was entirely unjustified - there had been no im-

provement in her condition.
"We are appalled," said
Catherine Robinson. "I do not think there are words strong enough to describe how we feel." Geraldine, her mother said, "is very distressed about it. She cannot concentrate on anything. I despair for her." Geraldine Robinson was en-

couraged by the council to live independently and move into a two-bedroomed unit, to allow her carers to be with her. According to Harold Elletson, Conservative MP for Blackpool North, she was told she had to accept the cuts and withdrawal of some of her care or face go-

dation - which she abhorred. The fact that a picture show-

ing her in a wheelchair was in the leaflet added insult to injury. "It makes it even worse," said Mrs Robinson, at her Blackpool home. "We are hoping the chief inspector will sort it out." Ms Robinson, who requires 24hour care, is one of many peo-ple across Lancashire to feel the brunt of the cuts.

Local Tory MPs, who pressed Mr Bowis to send in the chief inspector, say their mail-bags are full of complaints at reduc-tions in home helps and respite care. People with learning difficulties also face increases in charges for non-residential

Nigel Evans, Tory MP for Ribble Valley, cited the case of an 85-year old woman in his constituency who after having a home help for 15 years has withdrawn this month.

Social services staff have reportedly been told to reduce their home visits because the council can no longer afford their mileage. The Tories ac-cused the Labour-led council of misallocation of resources. This was not a case, they claimed, of central government wielding

The total amount available

to Lancashire County Council to spend on social services has consistently increased since 1990-91, when total funding of social services was £92m," Mr Elletson said. In 1993-94, that figure had risen to £147m, in the last financial year it was up to £169m and this year, Mr Elletson claimed, there is £185m

Despite the increases, Lan-cashire has been plunger into crisis. One of the reasons, the secretarion estimates £10.8m

Tories charge, is the council's insistence on relying upon its own inefficient in-house ser-This is denied by the counvices. Council-run services cost between £11.20 and £17 an

of resources While Ms Robinson has seen her care package cut, it is claimed that the council found £2,000 a week to send someone less deserving than her on a riding course in Ireland and also to go to Australia, all in the com-

hour, compared with £5.75 to £6

an hour in the private sector.

Another reason is misallocation

pany of social workers. While, the Conservatives argue, the council has been to pro-tect the jobs of its own staff last year it took on a further 203 in its social services department - it is not prepared to support the county's 15,000 private sector care workers. The independent Lancashire Homes Ascil budget if it made full use of

cil, which accuses the Tories of underfunding community care. This year 44 per cent of its social services budget will be spent in the private sector. "Lancashire has sought to offer choice between care at home and residential care," said Joan Humble, chairwoman of the social services committee. "Changes in funding arrange-ments and insufficiency of funds severely limited the capacity for such choice, and also meant some people suffered a loss or withdrawal of service in order

that the needs of the most dependent people could be met." She said the council would co-operate with Mr Laming's inco-operate with in Laming a co-quiry but health department of-ficials, surely are say live all the information they require.

Death left tycoon's son facing chaos

Financial Correspondent

An Old Bailey jury was asked yesterday to remember the den death of Robert Maxwell. In his closing speech for Ian Maxwell, Edmund Lawson QC told the jury that on 8 November 1991, barely three days after his father's mysterious death at sea, Ian Maxwell had signed documents relating to the pledging of shares in the Israeli company Teva.

Ian Maxwell would not have been involved at all but for the enforced absence of his younger brother, Kevin, in New York. Mr Lawson said that in those

days, apart from coping with his own gnef, there was a large publishing business to run, world leaders and the press to deal with as well as the task of

arranging his father's funeral.
When the prosecution claimed that "this must have been thought of, this must have been spoken of" at the time, Mr Lawson asked the jury to remember all the things that were actually happening in those

chaotic days.

He said that although lan

Maxwell had been described repeatedly by the prosecution as no fool, he was not a financial expert. "I do not suggest he was a dimbo," Mr Lawson said. "He is an able businessman." However, his role in the Maxwell em-

pire had been non-financial. He said one thing the trial now in its seventh month - had shown was how hard everyone had worked. "It wasn't all

caviar, it wasn't all luxury." Mr Lawson accused the me-dia of baselessly and maliciously trying to slander Ian Maxwell and making a sick joke out of the Maxwells. "But this case has been no joke for Ian Maxwell, it has been purgatory." He had waited three and a half years to demonstrate his innocence to a 'fair-minded tribunal".

Jan Maxwell, Kevin Maxwell and a former Maxwell executive, Larry Trachtenberg, deny con-spiracy to defraud the pension funds by misusing #22m worth of the Teva shares.

The prosecution claim the defendants knew the shares be-



longed to the pension fund and not to the Robert Maxwell Group when they pledged them and dishonestly put them at risk fan Maxwell and Trachten-

berg have not given evidence but Kevin Maxwell told the court he believed his father when he told him the beneficial ownership of the shares had been transferred from BIM (Bishopsgate Investment Management, which administered the pension fund) to RMG. Kevin Maxwell alone denies

similar charge of conspiring with his father to misuse £100m worth of shares in another

Israeli company, Scitex.

The prosecution claim these shares too belonged to BIM and were dishonestly used by the Maxwells to pay private com-pany debts. Kevin Maxwell has med that his father again told him that beneficial ownership had been transferred from BIM to RMG and had shown him an amended document supporting this. Earlier, Michael Hill QC,

for Mr Trachtenberg, said he was not part of the "inner cir-cle" of the Maxwell Group. The American-born former United Nations researcher had degrees in international and political studies, not finance.

Mr Hill accused Trevor Cook, a BIM executive, of lying in court to serve his own interests and to protect himself. Mr Hill said the prosecution had not proved their allegations that Trachtenberg participated in a fraudulent scheme.

Lord Justice Phillips has told the jury he hopes to start summing up a week today, but asked them for their Christmas plans in case he is not ready and has to sit beyond Christmas. The trial was adjourned

until today.

SAYS AUSTRALIA

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i in

news



Range row: Military fire new salvo in fight over unspoilt area

Army's heavy guns target national park

NICHOLAS SCHOON Environment Correspondent

The Army opened a powerful new offensive vesterday in its campaign to bring some of its noisiest weapon systems to an English national park.

The military wants to start training with heavy tracked artillery vehicles at its Otterburn training area, which occupies a futh of the 400 square miles of Northumberland National Park.

It has been negotiating for two years with the local council committee which controls planning over its controversial £23m training development which involves a few new buildings, a concrete apron at Ot-terburn camp and the widening of more than 20 miles of roads.

When councillors held their quarterly meeting vesterday the Army presented proposals to ease the environmental damage threatened by the plan.

tended to preserve the natural beauty of Britain's wildest land-rocket requires a safety distance scapes while promoting public enjoyment. The Government says there should never be any large development within them save in exceptional circumstances". These are just such circumstances, the Army says.

Hundreds of artillery pieces and tanks have returned from Germany following the collapse of Communism. Salisbury Plain, its most important training area, is in danger of over-use and must be kept free for tank exercises.

Otterburn is the best training area for two powerful selfpropelled weapons, the AS90 55mm gun and the 25-ton multiple-faunch rocket system (MLRS), says the Army, Besides, it has already been firing

large guns there for decades. This is the only UK training area where the MLRS can safe-

By law, national parks are in- ly launch its salvo of 12 supersonic rockets. Even the practice two miles wide stretching for 11 miles. Otterburn is covered in peat which would bog down heavy vehicles, hence the need for nearly 30 miles of roads.

Yesterday Lt-Col James Carter, in charge of pushing through the development presented changes to the plan to the park committee including cutting back on gun firing positions. opening up four miles of new footpath, demolishing 40 redundant buildings and halting artillery fire in August, the peak holiday month.

It will take several months be-fore the committee makes a decision. If it rejects the plan there will be a public inquiry, with the Government making a final decision. "That would delay things by two years, cost over £1m and keep a lot of lawyers in claret. said Lt-Col Carter.

Banks failing the 'friendly' test

Banks should take responsibil-ity for their mistakes and stop blaming computer errors, a consumer watchdog said

Too many banks have lost the personal touch - and too often they give rich customers preferential treatment, the Nation-

al Consumer Council says.

NCC officials organised eight discussion groups in locations throughout England to find out people's views on the financial services they received.

They concluded there was a need for a new free financial advice service to help people avoid financial difficulties. Banks and insurance companies happily compete for new customers, but our survey shows that their enthusiasm wanes once consumers experience premiums," the report said.

money problems," said the NCC chairman, Lady Wilcox. "It is the same old story - they provide an umbrella when the sun shines but take it away at

the first sign of rain."

Gun law: The multiple-launch rocket system in action at the Otterburn firing range, in Northumberland

The report says banks should make more use of their knowledge of customers' personal circumstances. People who go overdrawn a day before their pay goes into their account should not be sent a threatenpay for. Computers should also be programmed to off hiccups, said the NCC.

Insurance firms also come under fire. Many respondents believed insurance companies to be untrustworthy - slow to pay out but quick to make

DAILY POEM

Plate Glass

By Philip Gross-

as the sac of an egg that feels the twitch of beak and claws within,

I'm wall-wide tank of jewel fish and pearly bubbles. I'm the yes that money breathes soft as the swish

of limousine tyres in the rain. Look, don't touch. Just your breath on the glass leaves a butterfly stain.

Push and shove want to meet.

Take me! cry the goods. If I didn't keep control
they might spill out at anyone's feet. Stress patterns too fine for the eye

to see spread like the whisper of conspiracy One day I'll let go, I'll let fly. A dancer with knives, that's what I'll be.

Philip Gross was born in Delabole, Cornwall, "beside the slate mine", in 1952. His father was an Estonian refugee and his mother was the daughter of the village schoolmaster. He read mother was the daughter of the village schoolmaster. He read English at Sussex University and spent the early part of his working life as a librarian before writing poetry and plays fultime for children and adults. His most recent collection of poems for children, The All-Niw Cafe, won the 1994 Signal Poetry Award. A new collection, Scraich City, has just been published by Faber at £3:99.





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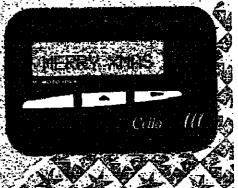
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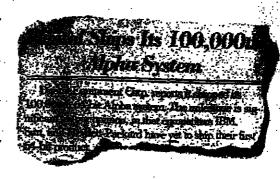




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the sack

everal weaknesses in the new rules on MPs' inferessis have been exposed the clocks forward an hour and

acat

الدي العناف

synchronise Britain with the rest of Europe.

Mail has been arriving by the sack toad for John Butterfill. the Bournemouth West Topy who plans to introduce the ure, but he fears accepting



extra secretarial support could land him in breach of the Nolan

Goodwin

Appealing to Speaker Betty dent Loans Company, the Boothroyd for guidance, Mr scheme and the hardship it Butterfill said it was beyond the normal resources of his office to deal with the flood. Even so, historian Lord Beloff com-he had deduced the letters mended the Australian practice were five to one in his favour. About 130 organisations, in-

cluding Age Concern, the Po-lice Federation and the CBI, support the Daylight Extra campaign for the change to Central European Time. They, apparently, would be happy to pro-vide the MP with assistance; but be seen as advocating a cause cuss changes to the system. and caught by the Nolan rules." and caught by the Nolan rules," But education minister Lord Mr Butterfill said, meaning he . Henley said it was not the right

had been to see Sir Gordon not a suitable vehicle for debt-Downey, the new Parliamentary collection. "It would impose ex-

Miss Boothroyd. She explained that the potential conflict was certain to be considered by the by a flood of public reaction to Select Committee on Standards the Private Member's Bill to put and Privileges and it would be

wrong of her to pre-empt it.

But the committee has yet to be appointed. And even if it is in being before Christmas, it will be weeks before it decides whether Mr Butterfill can have

more help with his post. Helpful as ever, Dennis Skinner, Labour MP for Bolsover, said if the extra-daylight MP could not find time to answer his letters, "he should give up all those moonlighting jobs that he's got". In the Register of Members' Interests, Mr Butterfill lists three paid directorships, five consultancies and fees for radio and TV appearances,

ith MPs embarked on a Bill to allow banks to compete with the Strcauses came under fire from academics in the Lords. Tory of repayment through taxes.
"That scheme works. This scheme clearly causes hard-

ship."
Neurologist Lord Walton of Detchant suggested a lumpsum payment when the ex-student could afford it, while Lord there is a snag. "If I were to acoof London University, urged cept that assistance there is a ministers to meet the vicepossibility ... that I could then chancellors' committee to dis-

could not speak for his own Bill. moment, for drastic change.

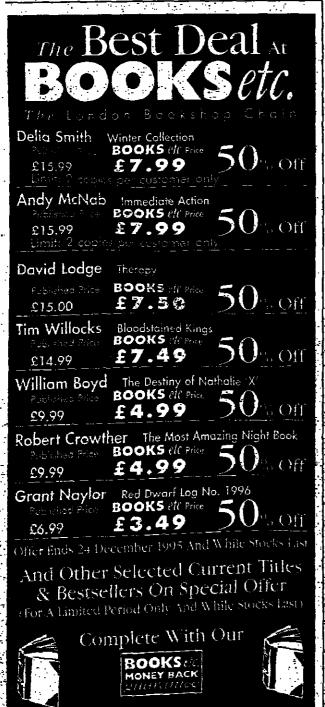
Pointing up the current woolRejecting the Australian
ly state of the anti-sleaze scheme, he said the tax and Naarrangements, the MP said he tional Insurance system was ioner on Standards in tra and unnecessary burdens on Public Life, but he had been un-employers and bring unnecesable to advise him. Nor could sary complication."

Tories breaking NHS pledge, Lib Dems say

Kenneth Clarke's Budget broke the Tories' manifesto pledge to figures show that inflation in the increase real resources for the health sector is higher than the health service, Simon Hughes, the Liberal Democrat health spokesman, said yesterday,

writes John Rentoul. Mr Clarke last week announced a 0.6 per cent rise in NHS funding for next year, taking inflation into account, in line with the 1992 Tory manifesto promise: "We will year by year, increase the level of real resources to the NHS."

But the Government's own economy as a whole and the Liberal Democrats calculate that the NHS in fact faces a 0.4 per cent cut in real resources. Mr Hughes said: "It is now clear that the effect of the Chancellor's Budget and public spending statement on the NHS will be that, far from gnaranteeing a secure future, the NHS is about to be



Moonlighting Blair set to accept nursery vouchers Meanwhile, Labour is planning to pre-empt nursery vouchers association of Metropolitan and Judith Judo Meanwhile, Labour is planning to pre-empt nursery vouchers Association of Metropolitan nurser the Government in Judith word the Government in Judith word the Government in Judith word to government in Judith w



Tony Blair, the Labour leader, has decided to accept the Conservative scheme for nursery education vouchers if its nationwide launch goes ahead, and his education spokesman, David Blunkett is considering a plan to trump it by offering higher value vouchers.

Such a move could provoke sharp divisions in the Labour Party, which has always condemned educational vouchers as extreme right-wing dogma.

Mr Blair and Mr Blunkett today launch a crusade to raise standards with plans to close bad schools if there are spare places in nearby schools. Other-wise, they should be reopened with a new head and governors. Teachers would have to reapply for their jobs. In Excellence for Everyone, the second education policy paper since Mr Blair became leader, Labour says it should be easier to sack headteachers, that heads should have a new professional qualification and a new grade of "sunext year, the Government intends to give all parents of four-year-olds vouchers worth £1,100 to buy part-time nursery school or playgroup places in February 1997, three months before the last date for the

general election. The Labour leader is understood to believe it would be unthinkable to go into the election promising to take the vouchers away. Sources say he is sympathetic to a plan at present being discussed by Mr Blunkett's team to give effect to the party's own aim to provide nursery education for all three-year-olds

as well as four-year-olds. This would stress Labour's claim that the Government's vouchers are inadequate to cover the cost even of many parttime places and offering higher value vouchers to pay for fulltime places at age four and parttime places at age three.

Labour local councils have accepted that the party's pledge cannot be delivered quickly per teacher" should be created. enough in the public sector

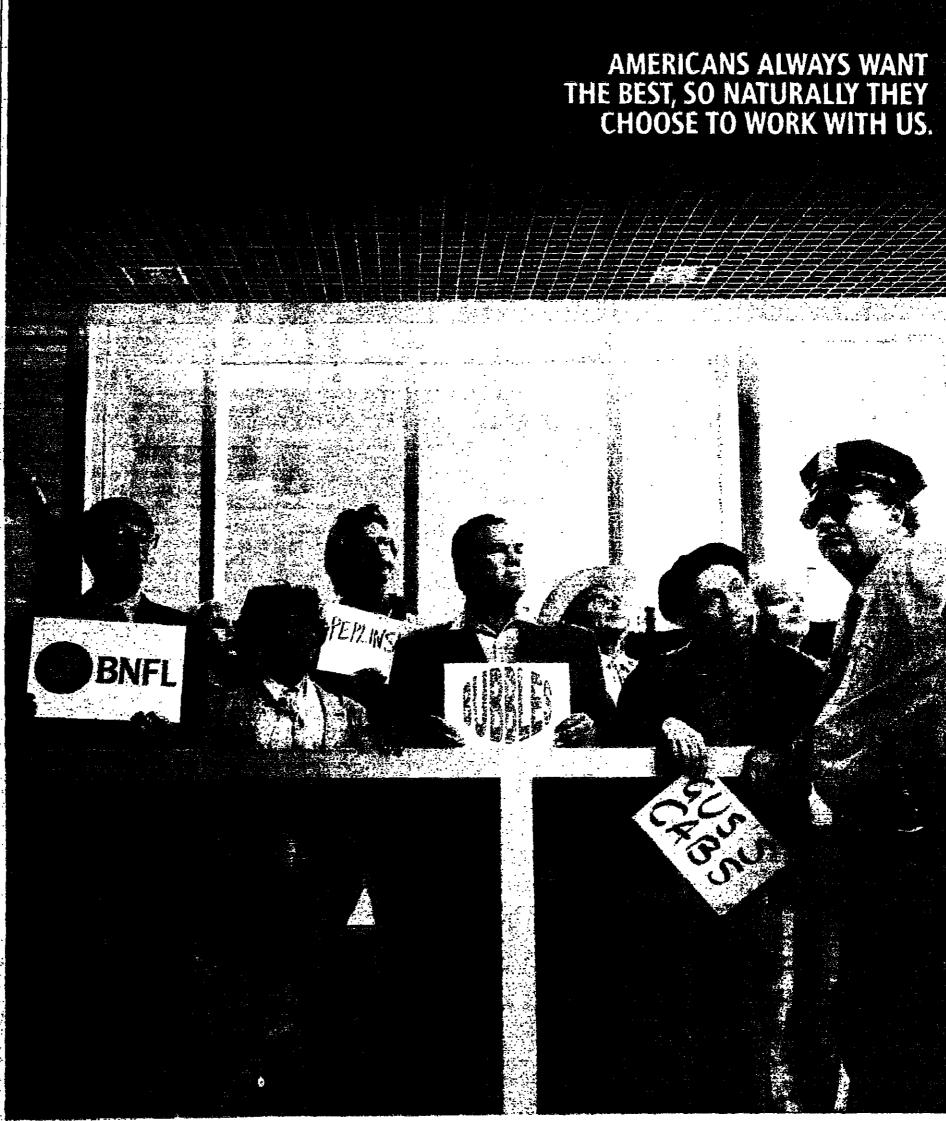
Association of Metropolitan Authorities yesterday set out a plan that would use private and voluntary sectors to top up public provision, but it remains opposed to vouchers, which would subsidise children at private nursery schools and take resources away from councils with good nursery provision.

A spokeswoman for Mr Blair said vesterday: The suggestion we might be backing the government scheme is frankly absurd. The Government cannot even get Tory councils to back the planned pilot scheme."

The document published today contains other evidence of convergence between Labour and Tory policy, as it backs several policies recently adopted by the Government, such as testing for five-year-olds and the requirement for inspectors to report had teachers to heads. However, Labour says inspection teams should include local council inspectors.

The paper also says primary schoolchildren should tearn foreign languages,

Leading article, page 18



The United States has the largest nuclear industry in the world, but even the Americans sometimes need help.

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- 7

BRANG DE REC

Tension hangs like car fumes

IMRE KARACS Paris

For Antoine and Jean, Christmas has come early this year. "Normally, I am only allowed to wear them in the park," said Antoine, as he sat on a bench putting on his shiny rollerskates. The two 11-year-olds were going home from school, and had received parental dispensation to use their favourite mode of transport, just for this

As they whizzed down the Champs-Elysées, zigzagging among Parisians trekking home from work, the motorists fuming in the traffic jam looked on in envy. With public transport paralysed and the roads clogged with cars crawling in first gear, roller-skates, old-fashioned scooters and bicycles have become the fastest means of getting about town.

Those who have failed to

invest in two-wheelers stand by relieve today's siege of the capthe road, in a vain attempt to thumb a lift from the cars slowly heading for the suburbs. What public transport there is can be found at 12 big intersections. Along one of the avenues projecting out of the Etoile, two articulated buses

the first bus. He was 43 years old and would not give his name, or offer an opinion on the strikes, in the presence of his boss.
"We are a private company,

the strikes have nothing to do with us," he said, though admitting he was "a little nervous" about today's protests. The buses and the bateauxmouches - pleasure boats on the Seine - were commandeered by Alain Juppé's government to

ital, when huge marches are expected in Paris and other cities. Demonstrators may well be inclined to vent their fury on the blackleg drivers.

In anticipation of trouble, the

authorities have dispatched all available policemen to city censtood yesterday with doors tres. A week ago, visitors open, bracing themselves for the arriving from abroad would afternoon rush. "We have been detained at the fronrequisitioned by the govern-ment," explained the driver of tier by special forces equipped with sub-machine guns; a token response to the growing terrorist threat. Now the borders are unmanned, the sentinels have been posted to the cities to deal with the enemy within. There they stand, the grim-faced men of the CRS, directing traffic in

> The air of expectation hangs as heavily as the pall of exhaust fumes on a city entering what everybody believes is the crucial phase of confrontation between the people and the govern-



Private enterprise: A Parisian steers his bicycle through gridlocked traffic at Porte Maillot yesterday

ment. Some may disagree with accountant who spent four one of the buses, and not exhours yesterday morning getting to work from Saint-Germainthe methods of opposition, but

few have anything good to say about Mr Juppé's from the centre of Paris when administration. the express rail network is run-"Juppé's policies are unfair," ning. She was hurrying towards

said Dominique Goasguen, an

pecting to get home much be-fore 10pm. "The government en-Laye - a suburb 20 minutes has done this to us; how are we supposed to work?" she asked. But, unsurprisingly, she had some barsh words to say about

How the strikes are biting

they will appen the Thursding The arithm supercised by distribution in the arithm and all of his long that signing to use unaffecting Colorada believed affect the first second by the colorada of the colorada by the colorada of the colorad

The exasperation with the strikes and anger with the perceived cause - the government Today their anger could prove - is a dangerous cocktail that the

the strikers, too. "Why should authorities fear could explode I suffer - we're all in the same into violence. Until now, into violence. Until now, Parisians caught in the middle have resorted to making a deafening noise with their car horns.

of tirtrains daily has

as Along with other

Recause of public trans

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oday. The Workers Force (FO) union called on truck

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OGT union urged Paris exi drivers le strike front

ays on the roads.

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MONTHB	William Papagasant Protection	£49.32	£73.98	£98.64	2145.49	£193.98	£242.48	£290.98	£339.47	£387.97	E436.47	£484.96
湦	With Repayment Protection	\$42.55	£63.83	£85,11	£124,01	£165.35	£206.68	2248.02	1289.36	£330.70	£372.04	£413.37
MONTHB	Without Repayment Perfection	235.52	£53.29	271.05	2104.02	£138.70	£173.37	£208.05	£242.73	5277.40	£312.08	2346.75
\$ <u>\$</u>	With Repayment Protection	N/A	N/A	£71.40	£103.03	£137.38	£171.72	2206.07	£240.41	£274.76	£309.10	£343.45
Ţ	William Represent Protection	NYA	N/A	257.A5	983.52	£111.86	£139.20	£167.04	£194,89	2222.73	9250.57	9278.41
SE	With Repayment Protection	N/A	N/A	264.55	£92,19	£122.92	ପ53.65	£184.38	£215.11	£245.84	£276.57	£307.30
Š	Without Papayteet Protection	N/A	NA	£48.43	271.40	995.20	£119.00	2142.80	£166.60	£190.40	5214.21	£238.01
The APR will depend on the amount you borrow and the term of your loss. The example given in the column opposite reliens the APR discount on losss												

of \$3,000 and over An administration fee of 1.5% (ministern \$30) of your loan a psychic with your first mo available on request. Credit as available to snyone upod 24 or over subject to status and conditions. Repayment restrictions and exclusions, full details will be sent to you with your Agreement Form.

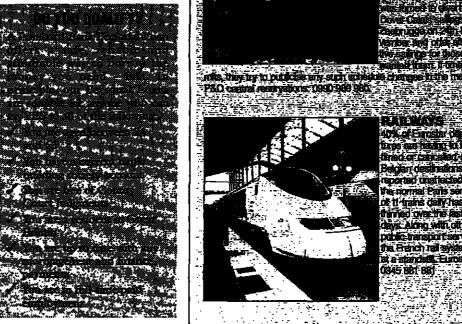
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rate.) (APR 17.3%). YOUR LOAN DETAILS Amount of Loan required ! Length of Receivment require Main purpose of loan: П

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Seven out of 21 nuclear power plants on strike forcing Electricité de France to import supply. An EDF spokesman said power was down by a third but no cuts expected.

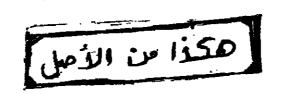
GOVERNMENT OFFICES Unions called strikes at the inland revenue, the finance ministry, the

treasury, and customs Schoolsechers, hospital workers and muse. um staff have also been called out on striks. BANKING
Benk of Prence traces called a strike for Thursday and Enday, Private

banking sector staff areas due to vote yesterday on whether to join-

percentary their to stores in France have been sitisched anoths have been hit because staff and customers.

The Franch Deak at the DIT and The Orline in the DIT and The Orline in the British internetional Freight Association (1981). idit enquires from UK companies exponing to France at separ to decress operly their strategies for getting-les, for tear the strikes sake advantage



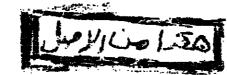
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FRANCE IN REVOLT

Welfare battle lines raise the spectre of '68

Day of action could decide future of nation, and threatens to of nation, and threatens to torpedo plans for single EU currency Veuf DEPART PONT NEUF

MARY DEJEVSKY

1789 and everyone is fearful.

"The week of all the penis", shouted the front page of the Paris local paper. On street corners yesterday there were knots of people, complete ing, but of increased fronting of the people, complete ing, but of increased fronting of the people in the strangers, drawn together spon-taneously - in a country whose

people are not known for their

driven on the pavement. sociability - by concern about .

the dangers of the next few days. The depth of popular uncertainty seems hardly compatible with the sophisticated, indusaction since the first big demonstration on 10 October - there was a sense that everything was the country's future was at

At the most basic level, a set of proposals to bring the wel-fare state as painlessly as possible into the 21st century has escalated into an "us-againstthem" struggle of historic pro-portions. Who wins will determine the course of France, even the course of Europe, in the years to come. The turnout and the conduct of today's demonstration will be one decisive factor. The other, equally unpredictable, is the response courageous attack on social ills of the government and the political establishment.

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Out to be a state

AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF

The past week has provided an object lesson in how quickly civil protest can escalate and their strength in the public sector is another. With seven major unions criss-crossing the public sector, action by only one

sectors to a halt and spread

rapidly to the next. On the streets they are talking abrupt escalation is what might of the revolt of 1968; the more be called the "flexible" public excitable commentators are attitude to law and order. In the talking of the revolution of simple matter of traffic control, driven on the pavement.

call from the Prime Minister,

out saying anything.
Finally, on Sunday night, with Mr Juppé conferring with ministers but still incommuni-French community in Benin, but clearly intended for the audience in France, he said there was a clear choice between resigned acceptance of the mounting deficit and social dion the other. "It is this course

order can deteriorate. The pow Mr Chirac's words conveyed erful organisation of French a double message: that he was trade unions is one reason and intent on persevering with the reforms and that he stood by Mr Juppé. This statement, however, could harm Mr Chirac more than it benefits Mr Juppé. As

Another explanation for this You can even seen cars being

Early last week, with only public transport on strike, the government's determination to stand firm looked like a plausible policy. From last Friday, trially developed country that is with strikes escalating all the France. But as trade union time, the government's silence leaders prepared for today's was universally seen as a sign of mass protest - the fourth day of weakness. An expected rallying Alain Juppé, an attempt to explain his social security reforms running out of control and that to the public never came. President Jacques Chirac went off to west Africa on Friday with-

> cado, Mr Chirac broke his silence. In an address to the vision on the one hand and a I have chosen," he said, "the way of long-postponed reforms. I am convinced that this is the right





Uncertain voyagers; Commuters on a commissioned tourist boat yesterday

lated, a single demand has crystallised - for the withdrawal of the "Juppé plan". This had been accompanied by strong hostility towards Mr Juppé. which owes much to the episode with his subsidised flat.

As the pressure built up, the consensus that Mr Juppe had carefully built to support the re-

More seriously for Mr Juppe, the cracks seem most threatening inside the Gaullist-led coalition. The leader of the piggest union (who was pilloried by her colleagues for admitting that the reforms had some good points) and the Socialist and Communist leaders, have still

lic opinion, or to have realised

sue of the welfare state reform

would become tied up with the

Now, it seems that every group of public sector workers

has interpreted the social se-

curity reforms as an attack on

their own separate terms and

conditions, and their own se-

curity. For instance, the railwaymen object to restructuring plan which could

lead to the regionalisation and

likely closure of up to 6,000km

of branch lines. Electricity, gas,

and postal workers are worried

In recent days, several individuals on the right with powerbases of their own and possible prime ministerial ambitions have come out of the woodwork. One of the first was the sacked economy minister, Alain Madelin, who spoke of the protest as a movement of the people against a self-perpetuating élite, and called for parliamentary elections. Another was former prime minister Edouard Balladur, who called

against the emotive backdrop of De Gaulle's shrine at Colombey-les-Deux-Eglises for "dialogue" between the vernment and the unions. A third was Philippe Seguin, chairman of the National As-

striking railwaymen in the castern town of Epinal where he is mayor and promised to represent their cause "direct to Mr Chirac" - i.e. bypassing Mr Juppé. Ali three - Madelin. Bailadur and Seguin – ensured that microphones and television cameras were on call. With the political consensus

on the right appearing to dissolve, and international markets forcing down the franc, Mr Chirac could be forced to act. But his room for manoeuvre is not great. He probably has only three choices. The first would be to "go to

the country" in the form of a referendum or narliamentary elections, In the first case, Mr sembly, who went to talk to Chirac would risk losing and French ambitions to join EMU; pe triumph looked remote.

NEW IMPROVED SERVICE - SAME LOW PRICE

could suffer a severe loss of authority. In the second, the right could lose its huge majority in parliament and the number of extreme right National Front The third option would be for MPs could increase dramatically. Seven by-elections this

right did very badly, offered a foretaste of the risks. The second option would be to withdraw the Juppe plan, which would undoubtedly mean the resignation of Mr Juppé. There must be a question, however, whether it would now be possible to introduce the necessary reforms to the welfare system even by stealth. Any refreat could mean the devaluation of the franc, the end of

past weekend, in which centre-

probably the end of the whole EMU project - and possible new unrest the next time reforms were broached.

Mr Chirac to stand firm with Mr Juppe, increase the provision of emergency transport and services and tough it out. This would risk violence and a possible collapse of law and order. If successful, it would mean that all the dragons of opposition to reform had been slain at once and mean plain-sailing for further reforms, including the much needed fiscal reform, in future. But as of vesterday evening, with the Paris traffic static in the gathering gloom, the possibility of a Chirae-Jup-

Social insecurity fuels protest

MARY DEJEVSKY

The origin of the tidal wave of stem to parliamentary scrutiny minister, Alam Juppé, for the The taxation of family alreform of the health and social security system.

The changes were dictated by the fast-growing indebtedness of the social security system (which also covers health care) and France's need to cut public particular ailment, and the borrowing to meet the Maas eventual introduction of a comtricht conditions for joining the

25 CASH

DE YOUR AIRTIME BILL

the social security system: The subordination of the sys-

lowances and other benefits hitherto untaxed: The postponement of a new

allowance for the elderly, Limits on the number of doctors a patient can consult for a puterised ID card for users of

flammatory measure, the formation of a special commission the extent to which the single is-"to: consider the recusion strikes in France was the puo and its incorporation into the arrangements of all public sec-posal, set out by the prime transoral budget; ..., tor employees, with a view to tor employees, with a view to sectional concerns of individual ending the perceived advantages enjoyed by ployees.

However, radical the proposals were in French terms, they did not provoke an immediate general strike, or even serious misgivings, at least in official circles. Mr Juppé had heen careful to square potential opponents within the ruling Gaullist coalition, the Socialist opposition, and even major

Unfortunately, he appears not to have reckoned with pub-

QUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND

about the impact of deregula-tion ordained from Brussels. Market fears hit franc and shares

PAUL WALLACE Economics Editor

The franc plunged to a fiveweek low against the German mark yesterday and shares fell sharply as markets took fright at the social unrest in France. So far, the French central

b<u>ank has be</u>en able to avert a rise in interest rates to defend the franc. But a further slide in the franc against the mark could put the Banque de France under pressure to reverse the recent easing in interest rates. A tightening of monetary policy would intensify the recessionary forces currently gripping the French economy.

"The markets have become concerned that the dispute could put in jeopardy the plan to cut the deficit," said Avinash Persaud, currency strategist with JP Morgan.

"It is very difficult for the government to compromise without facing censure from the markets," said Stuart Thompson, international economist with Nikko Europe.

The franc fell by two and a half centimes against the mark, compared with its value at the end of last week. It closed the day at 3.4811. French shares had a torrid

day, with the CAC Index of

leading stocks losing 2.5 per cent of its value. The CAC-40 index closed down 46.05, at 1,774.86. The Bourse was also depressed by concerns that the strikes could tip the economy into recession. Takings from department stores in Paris are running at derisory levels compared with the usual pre-ChristMembership of the RAC still starts at just £29 - but now your basic cover offers even more benefits.

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King Fahd 'stroke' London - A team of American

doctors has been flown to treat King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and

diplomats in the Gulf believe he may have suffered a mild stroke last week, writes Michael Sheri-

dan. Oil prices have risen slight-

ly on international markets on speculation that the 73-year-old

King's death could set off a pe-

rind of uncertainty over the suc-

cession and signal a shift in oil

pricing policy, but an official

medical bulletin said the results

of "clinical, analytical and ra-

diation tests" had yielded "re-

Stockholm - Sweden's Finance

Minister, Goran Persson, has agreed to be nominated as can-

didate for the Social Democratic

party leadership and is thus likev to become the country's next

prime minister, Swedish televi-

sion news reported. Reuter.

Paris - French police over-

powered a gunman who took a

class of 30 children and their

teacher hostage at a primary

school in the Paris suburb of

Clichy. A squad of police com-

mandos overpowered the man.

who was apparently deranged.

Estonia looks west

Brussels - Estonia became the

sixth East European nation to

apply for European Union

nembership since the collapse

after two hours.

Hostages freed

Tipped for the top

assuring" results.

Assassin 'was armed by élite soldier'

Rabin killing: Fresh evidence has cast new light on focus of inquiry

PATRICK COCKBURN Jerusalem

Eric Schwartz, an Israeli army sergeant in an élite unit, was charged yesterday with supplying military weapons and explosives to the assassin of Yitzhak Rabin.

Sgt Schwartz, the first suspect to be formally indicted, is accused of stealing arms and equipment from the Golani Brigade and handing it over to Yigal Amir who shot dead Rabin on 4 November Sgr Schwartz is alleged to have known that the weapons were to be used to attack Arabs.

As well as handing over arms to Yigal and his brother Hagai Amir. Sgt Schwartz is also accused of burying a cache of stolen army property, including weapons, in the backyard of his home. After Rabin was killed he dug them up and hid them in the house and car of another army sergeant.

During a search of Amir's house after the assassination, police found slabs of military explosives which Yigal Amir's. mother said she thought we're bars of soap. Other arms were buried at the back of the home under a yard used as a

kindergarten. Yigal Amir and another man, Dror Adani, who is considered by police to be central to the conspiracy, were also members idea of a conspiracy, immediof the Golani brigade. Hither-to, investigations into the background of the killing have facts about Yigal Amir and his

wing student group at Bar-Ilan university and not on army

As he entered a military court in Haifa where he was indicted, Sgt Schwartz covered his head with his khaki military jacket so completely that he had to be guided to his seat. He said: "It is not right what is happening here." His father Naffali, a dentist from the religious suburb of Bnet Brak, said his son was innocent and that the son was innocent and that the charges against him were "heartbreaking."

The Israeli government has recently been backing away

from the idea of a conspiracy behind Mr Rabin's death and four out of eight of those originally detained have been freed, though some may be charged later.

The change of tack came when Avishai Raviv, head of the extremist Eyal organisation, with which Yigal Amir was associated, was accused of being an agent of the Shin Bet domestic security police.
This enabled the right wing.

which has been on the defensive since the assassination, to counter-attack the governm claiming that it was the Shin Bet agents provocateurs, and not the right, which set the stage for the killing of the prime minister. Moshe Shahal, the police minister, who had promoted the ately began to back pedal.

Nevertheless, the known focused on a militant right- group suggest that there was a



Crowds celebrate as a group of Palestinian police arrives to take over from Israelis in the West Bank town of Beit Jala

conspiracy to resist the implementation of the Oslo accords by armed force. This involved the theft and storage of arms. Most of the conspirators belonged to an extreme right wing group at Bar-Ilan univer-

sity. Their central plan was evidently to attack Palestinians. emulating Baruch Goldstein who shot dead 29 worshippers in a mosque in Hebron last year.

known for the Shin Bet to be tipped off in June by a member of the Bar-llan group. It failed

on Thursday for talks with Egypt's president. Hosni Muharak - their first meeting since the funeral last month

in a mosque in Hebron last year.

But the fact that Yigal Amir
was planning to murder the

It ouct.

If shimon Peres will visit Cairo is a few hours for talks Mr Peres will stay in Cairo for Israel and both the Palestinians

Photograph: Whaled Zighan expected to focus on the Arab-

Israeli peace process. Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said yesterday. Egypt has tried to act as a mediator between

of the Soviet bloc. Blow for UN body

Vienna - The US said at the UN Industrial Development Organisation's annual conference that it was leaving the body. The US has long complained about too much bureaucracy and lack of efficiency in Unido, which funds and oversees industrial development in Third World

Vietnam date

Cotonou - Vietnam was chosen to stage the French-speaking world's next summit in 1997. four decades after France pulled out of Indochina foilowing military defeat there, as the sixth summit of La Francophonie, the club of France and its fellow French-speakers. ended in Benin.

Gifted Mandela

Pretoria - Greenland awarded South Africa's President Nelson Mandela the title of International Santa Claus of the Year and £66,000 for his work on behalf of children.

US Marine 'pressured' to confess to Okinawa rape

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

It was another grim day for the American military in Japan. Four of its servicemen faced serious charges in two separate trials on the island of Okinawa yesterday. One of them, a Marine private, accused the US military police of coercing him into confessing to the rape of a. 12-year old girl.
Private Rodrico Harp. to-

gether with another Marine and a naval seaman, is charged tracted earlier confessions of the a 13-year prison seatence for

with abducting and raping the schoolgirl in early September. The crime provoked an uproar throughout Japan against American bases in Okinawa, forced a televised apology from President Bill Chinton, and seriously undermined the US-

Japan security relationship. At the first hearing last month, Seaman Marcus Gill pleaded guilty to all charges, while Pie Harp and the other Marine admitted helping to carry out the crime, but reactual rape. Yesterday in the District Court of Naha, the Okinawan capital, Pte Harp insisted that he was manipulated into saying "what the Japanese would like to hear" by US naval He said they fabricated a re-

port for prosecutors. "When I told them what did happen, they pressured me to go in another direction," he told the three judges through an interpreter. Earlier in the day, prosecutors in the same court called for

another Marine who has admitted beating to death a 20year-old woman with a hammer

Japan has no jury system, and hearings, scheduled at the convenience of lawyers and judges, are held only one day at a time at intervals of about a month. Both cases are likely to extend into next year, prolonging the embarrassment of the US government, which is under intense pressure to reduce the 29,000 troops on Okinawa

Pte Harp's wife, who flew

over for vesterday's hearing, be-came the latest in a list of Americans - including Walter Mondale, ambassador to Tokyo. William Perry, the Defense Secretary, and President Clinton - to deliver an emotional apology for her husband's crime. "I am very sorry for the behaviour of my husband to the Japanese people, her mother and father, and to the people of

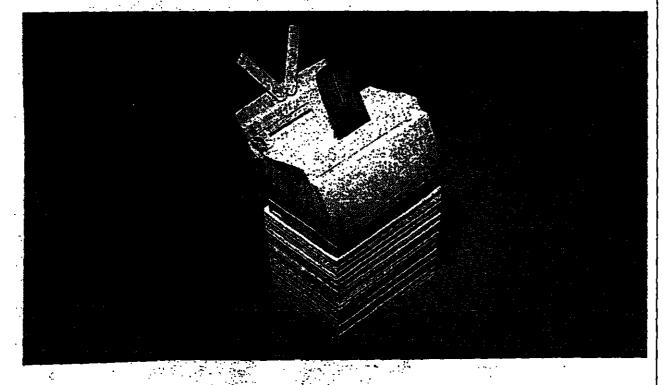
Japan and the US." The statement marked a month, the families of the three is fairly high for the kind of commen, all of whom are black, claimed that they were victims of Japanese racism. Such protestations go down badly with Japanese judges, whose sentencing is heavily influenced by guilty pleas and expressions of contrition.

Defence tactics have changed accordingly; vesterday, lawyers for the families of the accused men told reporters that they intend to pay 1.5m yen (£9,375) change in strategy by the de- "apology money" to the victim fence. After the first hearing last and her parents. "The amount

pensation customary in a case like this," said Seaman Gill's lawyer, Yutaka Arakawa. "But we believe it could have a beneficial effect on the trial." But the outcome is in little

doubt. "You've got a 99.5 per cent confession rate and a 99.8 per cent conviction rate over here," said Eric Ross, an American lawyer accompanying the families. "Look at the odds. With that kind of percentile, all you can do is mitigate the damage.

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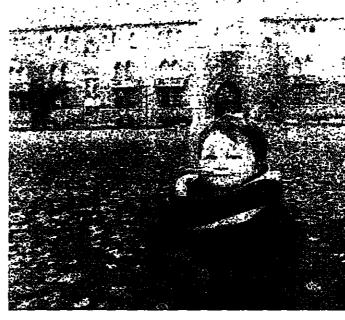
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Russian election: Communists may hail return of 'loving' party; the world is not so sure

Heirs to Lenin grasp at victory

As he sat in front of an entire wall devoted to volumes of Lenin, overlooked by busts of the man himself, Valentin Vakulin had the air of someone enjoying feeling wanted and

For once, his ramshackle office was full of people, most of them elderly, filling envelopes and rifling through piles of campaign literature. For once, he had a full programme of meetings and speeches. For once, being a Communist politi-

cian was rewarding.

Like most of the 550,000 Party faithful in Russia, Mr Vakulin, who is running as a par-liamentary candidate in the industrial city of Ivanovo, is optimistic. He believes when Russians go to the polls later this month, the Communists will lay the ghost of their post-Soviet collapse when the Party was banned and reviled. "More and more people are coming to us," he said, "They know we are the human, loving party".

They may do, but much of the rest of the world, from Russian reformers to Western officials,

is less sure. Polls show the Communists are ahead and will win the most seats in elections to the Duma, or lower house. on 17 December. Intense interest focuses on the party's policies and, in particular, on its leader, Gennady Zyuganov, whom many believe will run for the presidency in June.

There are two views of Mr Zyuganov, a portly 51-year-old former apparatchik who used to work in the Soviet party's central committee's propaganda department. The backbone of his support are the elderly, who long for an end to economic chaos, look back wistfully on the days of fixed prices and warm to his promises of free health care, housing and education. H e tells them of the "quite liber-al society" under Brezhnev, fantasises about rebuilding the Soviet Union, and condemns those who destroyed its giant administrative structure as "criminals"

The other Zyuganov is the one who hobnobs with western businessmen and politicians. They get the "new" Communist agenda – a free press, freedom of worship and the continuation of privatisation, albeit it at a

slower pace and sparing "strategic" industries, such as energy and transport, which would be state run. It was no coincidence that Mr Zyuganov welcomed the victory in Poland by a former Communist, Alexan-

This mixed message has sown alarm among Russia's political élite. Some argue that the par-ty is not a threat, because it is reformed and because it is unlikely to win overall control of the legislature, even if it forges an alliance with other left-wing or nationalist groups. One newspaper, Moskovsky Komso-molets, is so unconvinced by Mr Zyuganov's Communism that they claim the party is working coverty with "Our Home Is Russia", the government-backed centre party of the Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomydrin.

The same voices argue that unstitching economic reforms would be no easy matter. Russia depends on the West for the sale of its raw materials and as its main creditor to heavily for it to turn its back on the outside world again, however much the Communists may like to. "Russia needs money. And lots of it,"



Crowd puller: the ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky addres

wrote Valery Solovei, of the Gorbachev Foundation in an as-sessment of Mr Zyuganov called "The Reluctant Capitalist". He wrote: "The country can only come by it through selling materials such as gas, oil, non-ferrous metals and timber to the

policies of the current Russian government, no matter how much the Communists may curse them.

Others predict doom. Yegor Gaidar, one of the first archi-

West, that is, by continuing the self head of a party in the elec- a cellar in which to hide my chiltion, has warned Russia's economic reforms could be "fully reversed" if the Communists come into power. Mikhail Krasnov, an aide to Boris Yeltsin, put

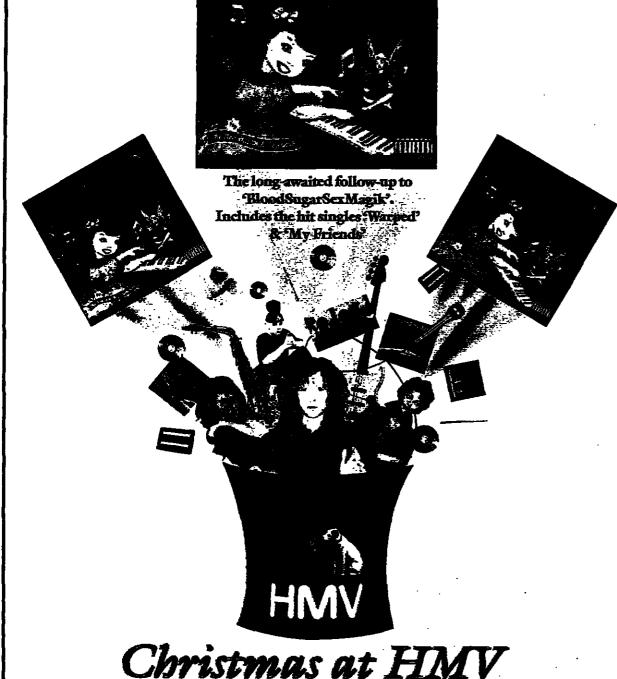
This may be a trifle alarmist.

Mr Zyuganov's party is riding on a crest of nostalgia which will serve him well in the elections. it bluntly: "If Zyuganov comes to power, I will start looking for ger party membership than his

rivals and a network of volunteer party workers. But he may lack the stature to turn that success into a winning bid for the Kremlin. For all his popularity, many Russians still quake at the

It's in the Bag!

One Hot Minute



How Clint missed the point of a rock and a hard place

San Francisco — "People, I want you to look. Realise that this was the punishment of Alcatraz." We, a small group, obediently direct our gaze across the frigid currents of San Francisco Bay to the city, barely a mile away. I watch a cable car make its precarious journey down Hyde Street. On quiet evenings, the park ranger ex-plains, the immates used to be able hear laughter and the klaxons of cars echoing across the

We are on a headland on the south side of the "Rock" - the Alcatraz penitentiary where for three decades the most dangerous inmates in America were incarcerated, until Bobby Kennedy, as Attorney-General, ordered it closed in 1963. Behind us stands the concrete and glass model laundry block where Al Capone used to toil for a wage of 7 cents an hour. the First, starring Kevin Bacon The concrete is blistered now, its steel reinforcing rods exposed and warped by the salt air.

Its ramparts and grey cliffs as forbidding as its history, the island lies in the middle of the estuary that feeds out beneath Golden Gate to the Pacific. In all, 36 inmates attempted to escape this place. Although five bodies have never been accounted for, it is thought none made it out alive.

Inside the prison building itself, an audio-tape tour helps conjure up its ghosts, with narrations by former inmates and guards. It takes you through the cell-blocks and beneath the "gun galleries" where the screws would pace with rifles ready to shoot to kill in case of trouble. But at one turn, I find a staircase down to the shower room that is not on the tour.

It is a huge room, with the shower area itself down its centre, maybe 100ft long. The ceiling is a maze of water pipes. of this chamber and inside there are rows of wooden pigeon holes that presumably were once stuffed with convicts uniforms. I swing open a small new clothes must have been passed out and dirty ones passed in. It is does not take too much imagination to hear the rush of water and the voices of

ALCATRAZ DAYS

But today there is a special visitor. He is Gienn Williams, who spent six years here as a convict in the mid-Fifties after a spectacular career as a bank robber. Eighty years old now, he is here to sign copies of his antobiography about his experiences as an Alcatraz alumnus. He politely dedicates the mes and poses for photographs with the tourists. He particularly enjoys rubbishing the various Hollywood renderings of what happened on the island, including the most famous of them all, the 1972

Escape from Alcatraz, starring Clint Eastwood. He is most scornful of the most recent fiction, Murder in playing former inmate Henri Young. In the film Young dies on the island, though in reality he was released in 1946. "That was the best comedy I ever saw."

But when asked whether Alcatraz's unholy reputation was deserved, Mr Williams' cheer vanishes. It was so inhuman, he explains, that the inmates would discourage even their families from visiting. And

though he was entitled to spend

recreation yard outside, he says he only ventured out there five "It was where accounts were

settled. You should understand that most of the abuse was between the inmates. It wasn't the guards." Then there was the infamous dungeon, so fearful tourists are not allowed to see. "The government is ashamed," he say So what, I ask Mr Williams,

does he make of the current rush by American politicians to wind back the clock in the prison system by doing away with privileges like televisions and games rooms and even, in several states, reintroducing leg-irons and chain gangs? In this state, where prisons are the second-largest industry, there have even been murmurs about reopening Alcatraz. Some who visit the island today may be viewing it with nostalgia for how incarceration used to be, rather than with regret, as is surely

Jackie Gilbertson of Scottsdale, Arizona, voices just such an opinion even as she presses forward to get Mr Williams's au-tograph. "If they can refurbish the island, they could use it

intended.

again," she ventures. "I think that would be good. I think things have gone loo far towards still rising". She would like to see the reapplication of the infamous Regulation Number 5 of Alcatraz: "You are entitled to food, clothing, shelter and medical attention. Anything

else you get is a privilege". Mr Williams responds tersely: "They will never open Alcatraz again. It would serve no purpose." He served on a chain gang in Georgia during the Forties, and deplores their reintroduction.

"It is absolutely ridiculous. Those who are bringing it back just want to make a political

When Kennedy finally shuttered this benighted place, he declared: "Let us reject the spirit of retribution and attempt, coolly, to balance the needs of deterrent and detention with the possibilities of rehabilitation." His sentiments are surely shared by Mr

But in the America of Newt Gingrich and the Republican Right, they are no longer in political vogue. Probably, though, Alcatraz has deteriorated too far ever to be pressed into service again.

D avid Usborne



Swinter of contact your way wheth, You'd supplied reasoned

mericar mgary

benia peace force.

Genera

Bosnia peace force: Severe weather conditions and poor roads pose biggest obstacles to the deployment of GIs in north-east

General Winter harries US vanguard

MMA DALY.

he first group of US soldiers ispatched to keep the new eace in Bosnia were due to arve in Tuzia last night, where te American force is to have s headquarters. Eight or nine small recommaissance party, ere expected to reach the own by road, as the huge air ase is almost permanently fogound in winter.

They are due to arrive today nd they are, I think, on their ray by road," Captain Yahya iddiqui, a UN spokesman in luzla, said yesterday. He had no letails about the teams' plans, out they are likely to start seting up communications for he Tuzia headquarters and couting around for suitable aises in the area.

Meanwhile, the first Nato roops flew to Croatia and Saraevo from a British air force base at Bruggen in northern Germany. The 56 members of the British 7th Signals regiment who left on the first C-130 transporter were assigned to support Nato's Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). Three more aircraft from RAF Lyncham stopped in Brueggen to pick up more equipment, soldiers and ARRC officers based in Germany and destined for Split and Sarajevo. The ARRC has prime responsibility for running a area are small and badly mainplementing the Dayton accord.

It seems that several planeloads more of Americans attached to the Nato Implementation Force (I-For)



Sarajevo on a mission to set up a communications system for use by Nato

the US deployment. Apart from Danes and Finns, a Russian deal. But he is concerned about a semi-permanent fog, snow threatens to fall. Roads in the brigade and a Turkish element. Lieutenant-Colonel Sverker the logistics of the operation: "They will face the same prob-Goranson, chief of staff for the lems as we do: the number of tained, despite the efforts of the mines along the confrontation

Tuzia, and a heavy snowfall will slow traffic even more. Under the peace plan, the Nato division in charge of

forces

UN Nordic battalion, based in Tuzla, will switch his blue beret for military green once Nato takes control in mid-December. He does not foresee military trouble for the Americans, as

time to clear. If we get a tough winter, if there is snow ...

"If you look at the terrain. will finally reach Tuzla tomornorth-eastern Bosnia will inthe front lines are relatively statow, weather permitting. Winclude 20,000 US troops, a ble, and very little land will
to south, another east to west,
and all the rest are gravel." high standard. One runs north

line, which will take a long

The troops' first task, following the construction of camps near Tuzla and closer to the front line, will be to create a 4km "zone of separation" between the warring forces with-in 30 days. That will involve overseeing the withdrawal of all soldiers and weapons from the line and clearing mines. Then servation posts along the line

Colonel Goranson is confident I-For will meet its deadline. if the weather holds. Ominous snowflakes whirled down vesterday, coating the hills, but petered out into drizzle in the afternoon. He is also relatively optimistic about the Dayton deal: "Everyone in uniform [in Bosnia] is sick and tired of the war. They want something else, but they are taking very small steps because they don't really

EU delays meeting

on reconstruction

trust the enemy. I can't blame

Photograph: Rikard Larma/AP

had up to 36 ceasefires before." He had a word of warning for the newcomers, used as they are to exerting total control over their environment: "If you have a problem, the first step is to negotiate. You don't resolve everything by slapping someone recognise that, there will be no

£40,000 so far raised for victims of conflict

As Christmas approaches, the 'Independent' is asking readers to support four char rties working to help child victims of the wars in former Yugoslavia. So far, the appeal has brought in £40,000 for the four charities:

Save the Children is focusing on children who have been separated from their families, counselling and reuniting them:

The Red Cross is running the largest humanitarian operation in the region, looking after refugee camps and linking people through its messaging network;

War Child plans to build a £2.5m music-therapy centre in Mostar, and to send urgently needed prosthetics to wounded children in the Tuzla area;

Child Advocacy International aims to bring up to 100 sick children to Britain for treatment they could not obtain at home.

Please make your cheques or postal orders payable to the chanties of your choice and send them to us with the completed coupon.

American incursion finds Hungary open for business

around

"Horocoahh!!" proclaims the said Zoltan Tapaszii, a shop-welcome message primed to keeper who is already stocking the notice board at the en-up with Marlboros and Jim trance to the Taszar airbase in Beam whisky. southern Hungary. The Amer- But some mothers are al-Taszar on the way to Bosnia as bor Molnar. "But our parents. part of the planned 60,000strong Nato peace force.

The deployment in Hungary will be the first of such a Nato force in a former Warsaw Pact many predict it could be longer. The 2,000 people of the vil-

lage of Taszar see the arrival of the Americans as a mixed bless-

ing. Traders are licking their lips.
"This should give a much-need-ed boost to the local economy,"

are worsed. They think that the arrival of the GIs will spell the arrival of cocaine, Aids; street brawls and Russian prostitutes. There is a lot of fear, especialcountry. US forces will also be by among women and mothers."
The last time Hungary played

using a military base in the near-by town of Kaposvar. Under the peace accord the Nato deploy-was always called a "temporary" ment should last for a year, but basis, they stayed more than 40 years. Several Soviet bases near Taszar were closed only in 1991. The Hungarian government, An advance party of 25 lo-however, has embraced the gistics specialists has started

it as a stepping-stone towards membership of Nato. A parliamentary vote last month on whether to allow the deployment was passed by 312 to 1.

"We are very pleased to offer our facilities to the US icans are coming. In the next few ready locking up their daughmonths, thousands of US troops ters. "I and other teenagers are it will serve our cause," said Gaare expected to flood through: looking forward to it," said Tibor Szentivanyi, a foreign minhosts. The Hungarian military istry spokesman. "Of course we have already staged Nato ex-ercises here under the Partnership for Peace programme, but they were only exercises. This time it will be for real."

The camps at Taszar and Kaposvar will be staging posts for some 20,000 US troops expected to be sent from Germany to Bosnia. Some 2,500 logistics and communications specialists will be based there.

American involvement, seeing preparing the ground for the exit as a stepping-stone towards pected onslaught. "It's cool," said Captain Steve Shapiro, asked how it felt to be operating from a former Warsaw Pact country. His colleague at the Taszar base, Lieutenant-

Colonel Michael Anderson, looked after by our Hungarian hosts. The Hungarian military is every bit as professional as any I have ever dealt with in Nato. To tell you the truth, when I first got here I did not even notice the difference." ■ Berne — Switzerland agreed

yesterday to grant passage to Nato troops and *materiel* bound for Bosnia, the first time the neutral republic has allowed alliance forces through its territory. The cabinet said it would permit supply flights and land transports on a case-by-case

European foreign ministers yesterday delayed a money-raising conference for Bosnian reconstruction, amid growing confusion about how to implement the political and civilian side of the Dayton peace deal.

The European Commission had proposed to host a pledging conference in Brussels on 20 December. The conference was to have followed the London conference this weekend when further peace implementation planning is to take place. A cer-emony to sign the Dayton deal is scheduled for Paris next week.

However, in the first sign of a slow-down in momentum since the Dayton agreement was signed. EU foreign ministers said it was "too early" for a money-raising meeting.

needs have not yet been properly identified, and there is no

certainty the warring sides in Bosnia will agree to the detailed terms set out in the Dayton deal. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said in Brussels yesterday that if such a meeting would be a matter of "plucking

figures out of the air. It was crucial that the Bosnian parties were fully aware there would be no reconstruction effort unless the Dayton terms were fully adhered to, he said. "We must not send signals which confuse, but rather,

which illuminate." Discussions have already operation should be shared. The assumption is that the US would pay for one-third with the EU paying another third, and tion also appears ambitious.

Reconstruction and aid the rest being shared by other construction costs range from \$3bn (£2bn) to \$6bn, Mr Rifkind said yesterday, and far planning was still needed. He hoped the pledging conference could be held in the New Year.

Britain hopes the London were held before Christmas it conference this weekend will put in place building blocks for the civilian peace-making effort. beginning with the appointment of a civilian overlord. The official is expected to be Carl Bildt the EU representa-

tive to former Yugoslavia. Whoever takes on this task will face an enormous challenge. as some requirements of the Dayton accord, such as "return started over how the cost of the of refugees", are unlikely to be achieved. The holding of elections within nine months of the agreement's implementa-

¥ INDEPENDENT CHILDREN OF

donation to help children in former Yugoslavia. I enclose a cheque/postal order/CAV/CAF card for ... made pavable to one of the following charties.

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Robert Johnson - "Cross Road Blues"

2. Big Joe Williams Nobody Knows You When You're Down And Out" 3. Mississippi John Hurt -"Nobody's Business But 4. Howlin Wolf . "I Didn't

5. Lightnin' Hopkins - "My Baby's Gone" 6. Muddy Waters - "Baby Please Don't Go 7. John Lee Hooker - "I'm In The Mood" 8. Memphis Slim - Rock Me 9. Bo Diddley - "Mona" 10. Canned Heat - "Spoonful"



COLLECT TOKEN 4 AND YOUR ORDER FORM TOMORROW

Professor Robertson Davies

It is a rare - and intensely exciting - experience to pick up a book of which one has no particular expectations and to find, within a dozen pages, that one has stumbled not only on a born writer but, quite possibly, on a great one; and no novelist in the post 30 years can, I suspect, have made just such an impact on more British readers than did Robertson Davies.

Why even now this literary phenomenon should remain so relatively little known to the world at large constitutes, to all those readers, an impenetrable mystery; eminently worthy of the Nobel Prize for Literature. only once was he ever shortlisted for the Booker. His Canadian background obviously had something to do with it; it is impossible to believe that, had he lived and worked in England, his genius would not have been more widely recognised.

But that was not the whole story. There was also the fact that his books were unlike other people's. They were long they often deliberately rambled; they touched on magic, food, semantics, poetry, the supernatural, holistic medicine, Jungian analysis, murder, art forgery, the theatre, the interpretation of dreams and anything else that happened to strike the author's astonishing imagination while he was writing. His novels, in the extravagance of their plots, the outlandishness of many of their characters, the luxury of their language, were baroque through and through; and un-happily, in the late 20th century, the baroque is no longer fashionable.

Born in 1913 in Thamesville, Ontario, Davies was educated at Queen's University, Toronto, and at Balliol College, Oxford,

after which he taught and actright - to go, consciously and quite deliberately, over the top. Davies's hilarious account, in ed in London at the Old Vic. it was there that he met his wife, the Australian actress and stage what sadly proves to be his last novel, The Cunning Man (1995), of the Coburg Social Parlours Annual Bad Breath Contest, is manager of the company Brenda Mathews. The theatre was in the blood of both of them, and on their regular visits to Enga case in point. land there were few nights apart from the occasional

evening at dinner with close

friends - when they were able

to keep away from it. "Rob"

Davies's unmistakable figure -

as he grew older he looked more

and more like some mischievous

Old Testament patriarch, with

his snow-white beard and bril-

liant, twinkling eyes - was almost as familiar at Stratford-

on-Avon as it was at Stratford, Ontario; and it was a matter of

real sorrow to him that none of

his own 30-odd plays had any

real success outside his native

country. He consoled himself

with his novels; "I like being a

novelist," he used to say, "for the same reason that Charles

Dickens liked being a novelist.

You can play all the parts,

arrange the scenery, be the

whole show and nobody gets in

The theatrical metaphor is

significant - the more so when

we remember that Dickens too

had a lifelong passion for the

theatre. (As a particular devo-

tee of amateur theatricals, how

he would have loved Tempest-

Tost, 1951, the first of three nov-

els forming the "Salterton Trilogy" and the funniest book

on the subject ever written.) He

and Davies had a lot in com-

mon. Both were prepared to al-

low their imagination to take them where it would - though

never so far that they could not

find their way home again; both

were drawn, irresistibly, to-

wards the grotesque; neither

was afraid - when the time was

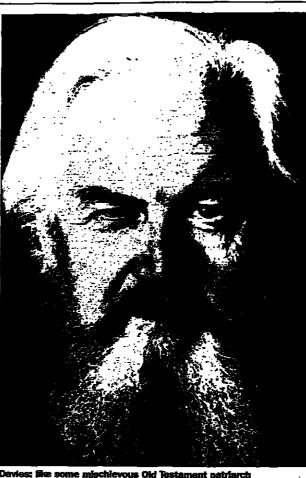
the way."

His literary life, however, was not confined to novels and plays. On his return to Canada he had become a journalist, not only editing and publishing the Peterborough Examiner - owned by his father - but for many years contributing a regular column purporting to be the work of a cantankerous columnist named Samuel Marchbanks. Professor of English at the

University of Toronto from 1962, in the following year he was appointed first Master of the new Massey College. (Although he retired in 1981, he held the titles of Master Emeritus and Professor Emeritus until his death.) It was during his years at Massey that he became famous for telling his annual Christmas ghost story, a major event in the university calendar. Ghosts always fascinated him; one of them, indeed, is the protagonist of his penultimate novel, Murther and Walking Spirits (1991). "I believe in them." he once said, "as Shakespeare believed in them. They are a way of exemplifying some thing you know to be true, but which is very hard to give

"Why does Hamlet see his father's ghost? It's in order that he may recognise what he knows in the depths of his own mind. It doesn't really mean that people are floating around in nighties looking for someone to

Inevitably, with his genius, his reputation - and his looks - he



was cut out to become the Grand Old Man. In a recent etter he wrote:

All of a sudden I seem to be a public monument . . . If someone has a the drama, or giving fresh juice to the novel, I am just the lad to give it a push. "Celebrity auctions" implore worn-out pairs of socks... The lat-est is a demand for a bottle of my favourite wine to be auctioned for some literary cause; I have not the face to tell them that my favourite

wine is the one that appears on the table, and although I can tell white-from red in a good light I am not oth-erwise a wine buil. But the real ances are the ones with talented children. Last week, as I lay on the hospital table while a cardiologist read what a machine was saying about my heart, the doctor confided to me with blushes that his son was a Flauber to embryo, and it would mean so much to the lad if I would talk to him about writing. Under such circumstances, what does one do? If I refuse he may poison me ... They are all sure there is some secret, and they all think that writing is a high road to opulence. Many also imag-ine that being a writer structs the ca-resses of exquisite society beauties, which I have never found to be the

Another fascination of Robertson Davies was with the preternaturally gifted. The young Paul Dempster, whose mother was killed at the beginning of Fifth Business (1970) by a misdirected snowball, grows up to be Magnus Eisengrim, the greatest illusionist-magician the world has ever seen. Dr Jonathan Hullah, hero of The Curring Man, is its most inspired diagnostician. And yet, reaching the end of the canon, one is forced to the conclusion that Davies himself was a greater magician than Eisengrim could ever hope to be, and saw yet more deeply into the human psyche - or body, for to him it was all one - even than Hullah. He not only looked like a sage: he was one. His work is as instinct with wisdom as it is with imagination, and with

humour, and with the drama. As Hullah says, "This is the Great Theatre of Life. Admission is free but the taxation is mortal. You come when you can, and leave when you must. The show is continuous."

John Julius Norwich

My first meal with Robertson Davies in 1986 was celebratory, writes Felicity Bryan. I had been his literary agent for only a year and on the eve of his arrival in London I tracked him down at his Swedish publishers to tell him that his novel What's Bred in the Bone had been shortlisted for the Booker Prize.

This recognition was exactly what we needed. For, while he was already a cult author in

America and his books sold throughout the world, recogni-tion in England had cluded him. There was a group of enthusiasts (including Anthony Burgess, who always said Davies should have won the Nobel Prize) who had experienced his extraordinary "Deptford Trilogy" and never looked back.

But it was tiny. Rob put this down to a general British prejudice that found all things boring if they hailed from Canada. It was not something he resented. Indeed, he took positive pride in the bor-inguess of Canadians, saying that he and his Swedish hosts had waxed quite competitive about which country was the most boring.

The Canada he wrily observes in his novels has as many layers as an omion and brims with memorable eccentrics. Rob and his wife Brenda invited me there one year to stay in the fine house they had built in the woods an hour from Toronto. It was a place to write and enjoy the countryside, but also to escape. For in Canada Robertson Davies was a hero. His books were both bestsellers and classics and thousands would attend his famous readings which - as a former actor - he performed with brillance and brio.

His belated recognition in Britain did mean a lot. London, where he had been an actor, and Oxford, where he had studied, were close to his heart. When he was made an Honorary Fellow of Balliol College he admitted to being "quite inor-dinately proud of it"; when he received an honorary degree in the Sheldonian, looking like an omate Father Christmas. he was thrilled to bits. Representing Robertson Davies was pure pleasure. H old-fashioned good manne and appreciation were refresh ing and his letters fizzed wit bizarre ancedotes and sly con ments on critics, publishers ar all literary types. In his last le ter in October, he wrote that h was much enjoying writing h next novel which was to be th third of a loosely linked trilog (with Murther and Walking

Spirits and The Cunning Man "I am puzzled," he wrote, " determine whether it has no plo at all or more plot than th Bible. Certainly a lot of thing happen but the characters keep talking all the time which ma give a somewhat static impres sion. However, there's lots of time to take care of that". feel fate has cheated me

another rare treat.

William Robertson Davies, nor elist, playwright and Englis scholar: born Thamesville, Or tario 28 August 1913; Edito and Publisher, Peterboroug Examiner 1942-63; Professor of English, University of Toronto 1960-81 (Emeritus), Master o Massey College 1963-81 (Eme itus); Štephen Leacock Medal fo Humour 1955; Lorne Picrce Medal of Royal Society of Canada 1961; Governor-General' Award for Fiction 1973; books include The Table Talk of Samuel Marchbanks 1949, the "Salter ton Trilogy" - Tempest-Tost 1951, Leaven of Malice 1954. A Mixture of Frailties 1958, the "Deptford Trilogy" - Fifth Busi ness 1970, The Manticore 1972; World of Wonders 1975, the "Cornish Trilogy" - The Rebel Angels 1981, What's Bred in the Bone 1985, The Lyre of Orda Mathews (three daughters); died Orangeville, Ontario 2 December 1995.

Jimmy Jewel

The producer of television's Heroes of Comedy, John Fisher, in his classic Funny Way to be a Hero (1973), writes of double-acts, "The static combination of gullible, gormless, grotesque and shrewd. pompous know-all reached its zany apotheosis in the late Forties with the act of Jimmy Jewel and Ben Warriss." Warriss was the straight man in the snappy suit and Jimmy Jewel was the baggy-panted comic. Never reaching the popular heights of Flanagan and Allen, they nevertheless topped the bill for many years before the brighter, younger comedy of couples like Morecambe and Wise came flashing in.

Jewel and Warriss were probably the tail-end of the variety doubles, a trade learnt the hard way from small-town tours from show-business families. They were cousins, born in 1912, six months apart, in the same bed, Jimmy was the son of a comedian, James Marsh, who changed his name to Jimmy Marsh, and then to Jimmy Jewel. Jewel senior wrote and produced his own touring revues, and designed the sets, built the props and painted the scenery. The cousins did their the age of four. They sang "Here comes the Five-Fifteen, hear the whistle blowing".

Jimmy made his professional début one year later. Dressed up as a little red devil he was shot on to the stage through a Pathe Gazette. He would open trap door, and broke his arm. Pathe Gazette. He would open with a song, "Annabelle Lee", trap door, and broke his arm.

Jewel: baggy-panted

"My first break in showbusiness", he quipped.

Educated at boarding schools in Derbyshire and in Penge, south London, Jimmy joined the family troupe, but backstage, helping with the sets and the as un une revue £xplosions in 1925 at the Hippodrome, Roxburgh, that he turned "pro". Ben Warriss was in the show playing a miner's boy. To prune the expenses, Jewel sacked Ben and gave his part to Jimmy. This led to a backstage fight. Meanwhile Jimmy, now re-christened Marsh Jewel by his father, was tried out as a comedian. "Act daft," he was told, so he did, and first double-act for the family at after a crash course in clog, tap and soft-shoe dancing, Jimmy

had an act to please the patrons. By 1931 Jimmy Jewel junior was starring in cine-variety, which meant he went on between the B-picture and the followed by impressions of Jack Buchanan and Maurice Chevalier, and close with a chorus of "Pit Pat Listen to the Rain".

He next tried his hand at his own show. He formed a cooperative with Willie Lancet, a midget whose act was as a telegraph boy who sang a saucy song called "I Always Take a Long Time Coming". The cast included Jimmy's Uncle Fred, and under the title of We're All In It and Up To Our Necks, it opened in Castleford. Its run was shorter than expected when two detectives arrested Uncle Fred for not paying his maintenance money.

Ben Warriss was by now a well-known soio turn as a blackface singer. He and Jimmy chanced to be booked together for a one-night stand. The bill required two single acts and one double. Money was light so American double-act Bud Abthe cousins agreed to do the lot, bott and Lou Costello. Their whipping up a patter act and re-first Palladium show, Gangway ceiving 50 shillings between them for the night. The venue was Welwyn Garden City. In May 1934 the double-act first came together. Jimmy and

Ben had been booked separately by Jewel senior for a show at the Palace, Newcastle, Another double-act failed to turn up. It was the boys' big chance. Remembering gags from all the doubles they had seen down the years, Ben opened with the classic straight line, "Ladies and gentlemen, a little monologue entitled The Wreck of the Hesperus'." Jimmy came on with a funny run, shouting, small bowler hat, tall suit and black shoes?" "No", said Ben. "Blimey!" said Jimmy, "I'm lost again!"

The new act was booked by the Northern impresario John D. Roberton, father of the Carry On comedian Jack Douglas. He paid them £14 a week for his revue, Revels of 1934. Jewel and Warriss were on their way, if not to the top of the bill, at least to Australia. Here, Jimmy met Belle Bluett, the pretty daughter of a show-business family. He fell in love and married her. Jewel and Warriss finally

made their West End début at the Holborn Empire; top of the bill was Max Miller. They starred in a touring revue and fast performed their quarrelling act known as "The Mustard Routine", which their agent had bought from the popular came in 1942, and their film début a year later, as Vera Lynn's brothers in the Columbia musical Rhythm Serenade.

During the Second World

War they played for the forces through ENSA, and starred with Two Ton Tessie O'Shea in the Blackpool spectacular, The Big Show (1943). A provincial tour in Black Vanities followed, by which time they were earning £200 a week. In 1946 Val Parnell put them into his Palladium show High Time. Radio now entered the

scene; the BBC producer George Innes booked them for "Have you seen a feller with a a run of 13 weeks in his series

Navy Mixture. A series of their own followed. Up the Pole made its début in October 1947 and ran until 1952. The pair were cast as the cross-talking proprietors of an Arctic trading post, with Claude Dampier as Horace Hotplate, Mayor of the North Pole. Jon Pertwee played

Mr Burp the handyman. Films tried them again in 1949, and the act went to Manchester to star in a film directed by the Northern film-maker John E. Blakeley. Jimmy and Ben played a pair of clumsy soldiers bossed about by their sergeant - the Irish tenor and income tax refugee Josef Locke. The film was to have been called *Up the Pole*, but the BBC wanted a fee for their title; Blakeley promptly re-christened it What a Carry On! A pity he didn't copyright that.

The act did better in television. Ronnie Waldman, the head of BBC light entertainment, created a spectacular Saturday show around them, written by Ronnie Hanbury. Tirm It Up started in September 1951. A second series ran in 1953, entitled Re-Turn It Up.

Their next series was a comedy thriller serial, Double Cross (1956). Their writers were Sid Green and Dick Hills, who later wrote for Morecambe and Wise. Jewel supplied the idea, inspired by the real-life spy affair of Burgess and Maclean. A pretty blonde singer, Jill Day, was the girl in the case, who was so frightened that she fainted during the live transmission. Without a pause, Jewel prompt- as his sister Nellie, a pairing that



ed Warriss into going into their long-lasting Mustard Routine. Television proved the "third life" for Jimmy Jewel, as recorded in his autobiography, Three Times Lucky (1982). After the team broke up in 1966, Frank Muir, the BBC's Head of Comedy, tried him out in the short play Spanner in the Works (1967). His success in this led to a role in the full-length Lucky For Some. Then came the breakthrough, the part of Eli Pledge, pickle manufacturer, in the Granada series Nearest and Dearest, which began in Angust 1968. The brilliantly eccentric Hylda Baker co-starred

each other when on camera. While Warriss soldiered on chairing the occasional old-

time music hall, Jewel went from strength to strength. He turned into one of those great variety stars who, like Will Fyffe and George Robey, found new careers in legitimate drama. In Spring and Autumn (1973), he played a widowed father living with a very unwilling son-in-law. Neil Simon's The Sunshine Boys (1975) secured him a permanent place in the theatre.

Jewel's last television series, Funny Man, was based on his died London 3 December 1995.

came off perfectly on the tele- own life story and his family's vision screen, but not so off-set. career in the music halls. The They fell out and only spoke to most surprising role he played on television was as a cartoonist on the game show Quick on the Draw. His early work as his father's scenic painter was evidently at the root of his unsuspected ability to sketch out impromptu visual gags, proving that everything learnt in life counts - if you live long enough.

Denis Gifford

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Antiquing to a ...

Charles Salar

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The Burney

James Arthur Thomas Jewel Marsh (Jimmy Jewel), comedian born Sheffield 4 December 1912, married Belle Bluett (died 1985; one son, one adopted daughter):

Births, Marriages & Deaths

BIRTHS

JENNINGS: On 22 November 1995, in Zurich. Switzerland, to Sussame and Simon, a son. Lukas Montgomery, a brother for Alexandra. ROLT: On 8 November, a daughter, to Mark and Marion,

DEATHS

CALDER-MARSHALL: On Sunday 3
December, peacefully, at Denville
Hall, Violet (Ara), wife of the late
Arthur and a much loved mother of
Anna and Clare. Funeral Service at
Mortlake Crematorium, on Friday 8
December at 11.30am.

PAYNE: Philip, MA Cantab, BA Lon. on 4 December, aged 66 years, at his AYNE: Philip, MA Cantab, BA Lon, on 4 December, aged 66 years, at his home in Wivenhoe. Dearly loved husband of Carla and father of Marjolein, Moira and Stella. Funeral service Friday 8 December at Colchester Crematorium at 12.30pm. No flowers by request, donations for Annesty International may be sent to Cooperative Funeral Service, Wimpole Road, Colchester, Essex CO1 2DB.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Mezorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Cansary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour unswering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthernouncements (notices, functions, Forthernouncements) VAT extra). OTHER Gazette au-nouncements (notices, functions, Forth-coming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or based) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They

Forthcoming marriages

Mr N. A. Pescock and Miss S. J. Haden

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Peacock, of North Kelsey, Lincolnshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ronald Haden, of

Birthdays Lady Balfour of Burleigh (Janet

Bruce), editor, writer and consultant, 50; Mr José Carreras, operatic tenor, 49; Lord Chalfont, chairman, Radio Authority, 76; Miss Lucie Clayton, founder of the Lucic Clayton mod-el and secretarial agency, 67; Sir William Downward, former Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, 83; Miss Enid Mary Essame, former Headmistress of Queenswood School, 89; Mr Tom Graham MP, 51; The Right Rev George Henderson, former Bishop of Argyll and The Isles, and former Primus of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, 74; Mr John Home Robertson MP, 47; The Earl of Longford, writer and former government minister, 90; Mr Terry Maher, founder and former chairman and chief executive, Pentos, 60; Lord Matthews, former newspaper poblisher, 76; Mr Sheridan Morley, writer, biographer and broadcaster, 54; Lord Nathan, former chairman, Royal Society of Arts, 73; Mr Jeremy Sandford, author, 61; Mr Harold Sebag-Montefiore, barrister, 71; Mr Baden Skitt, Chief Constable for Hertfordshire, 54; Dame Mary Smi-

Anniversaries

Custer, cavalry commander, 1839;

Cister, cavalry commander, 1839; Fritz Lang, film director, 1890; Wal-ter (Walt) Elias Disney, artist and film producer, 1901. Deaths: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composer, 1791; Sir Henry Tate, sugar refiner and phil-anthropist, 1899; Clande-Oscar Mon-et, painter, 1926. On this day: James Christie, London auctioneer, held his first sale, 1766; the brig Mary Celeste was found abandoned in the Atlantic 1872; prohibition was repealed in the United States, 1933; Britain's first motorway opened, 1958. Today is the Feast Day of St Birimus, St Christian, St Crispina, St John Almond, St Jus-tinian or Iestin, St Nicetius of Trier, St Sabas and St Sigiramous or Cyran.

Luncheons

Foreign and Comm realth Office Mr Jeremy Hanley MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Common-wealth Affairs, hosted a lunch held yesterday at Lancaster House, Lon-don SWI, for a delegation of Mem-

Royal Over-Seas League Dr Eileen Barker was guest speaker at a meeting of the Royal Over-Seas League's Discussion Circle held yesterday evening at Over-Seas House, St James's, London SW1. Her subject was "Do All Religious Cults Involve Brainwashing?"

Appointments Mr Richard Edis, to be Ambassador

to the Tunisian Republic. Mr Richard Raiph, to be Governor of the Falkland Islands and Commissioner of the South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands. Births: Christina Georgina Rosset- Mr André Dhondt, to be Chairman ti, poet, 1830; George Armstrong of Council of the Textile Institute.

ROYAL ENGACEMENTS
The Quees holds an investiture at Buckingham Palace. The Balan of Edibastoph attends to "Area for Palace." Cash Bearing at the David Measure Gallery, London WI. The Prince of Walas hours a reception at \$\frac{1}{2}\$ States "Palace, for subsence of the three Services who have recently served operationally oversion. The Date of Gloscoster attends a concert in sid of the Council for Mosic in Hospinia, at \$\frac{1}{2}\$ States \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Area of Gloscoster opera an exhibition of work by Jette Frobels and meets sembors of the Edisburgh Youth Orchestra at the Royal Daubh Onestaba, Edisburgh wides the Tristle Foundation. Edisburgh tooth Orchestra at the Royal Daubh Onestaba, Edisburgh wides the Tristle Foundation. Edisburgh and so Patron, Scottish Opera, attends a concert to octobrate the life of \$\frac{1}{2}\$ Area of \$\frac{1}{2}\$ A

Changing of the Guard

Lectures

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins,
"In Trust for the Nation (ii): pictures by Strozzi and Guercino", 1pm. Tate Gallery: Justine Hopkins, "Ilum ing the Century: late Victorian and Edwardian painting", 1pm. British Museum: V. Nersessian, "Armenian Art Treasures in the British Museum, 1.15pm.

National Portrait Gallery. Simone Mathews; "Gilbert, Sullivan and Others", 1.10pm. Highgate Literary and Scientific In-stitution, London N6: Peter Porter and Edwin Brock, "Poets in Ambir",

RIBA Architecture Centre, London W1: Peter Cook and Christine Haw-

ley, "The Work of the Practice" 6.15pm.

Lords (Lord Keith of Kinkel. Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nicholls of Birkenbead, Lord Steyn and Lord Hoffmann);

A bank's insurance policy which covered loss through theft committed by persons present on the bank's premises contemplated theft by a thief who was physically present on its premises.
The House of Lords (Lord

Steyn dissenting) allowed an appeal by the appellant un-derwriters and restored Mr Justice Hobhouse's order that the bank was not entitled to claim for a loss by theft under

its insurance policy.
A company, Wallace Smith
Trust Co Ltd, was a customer of the bank with a secured credit line of £9m, Wallace Duncan Smith, the chairman of the company, arranged a variation of the credit terms whereby the bank would allow the company to take possession of the securities until close of business on any day in exchange for a let-ter of undertaking by the com-pany that it would produce acceptable securities to the bank by the close of business

Bank's insurance policy did not cover theft

LAW REPORT

premises, handed over a letter

signed by Mr Smith on behalf of the company undertaking to deliver specified securities and the original securities were handed over to the employee. The alternative securities were never delivered. The company was wound up and Mr Smith was charged with fraudulent trading. The bank was never

repaid the £9m.
The bank claimed against the underwriters under clause 2 of its insurance policy, which covered the bank against losses "On premises": "By reason of ... theft, larceny or false pretences, committed by persons present on the premises". Mr

Justice Hobhouse decided that the theft was not committed by persons present on its premises within clause 2, since the theft was committed by Mr Smith and through him by the company and the only person on the premises was the employee who was not alleged to have committed any criminal offence. The Court of Appeal (Lord Justices Waite and Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Staugh-

employee who did the act of appropriating the securities. Gordon Langley QC and Guy

Gordon Langiey Quant Philipps (Berwin Leighton) for the un-derwriters, David Donaldson QC and Rory Phillips (Herbert Smith) for the Lord Keith said that the reason why the company was guilty of theft was that its directing mind and will, Mr Smith, was himself guilty of theft. If there had been no company involved

and if it had been Mr Smith as an individual to whom the bank had granted the loan, so that the theft was committed by Mr Smith alone, then it could not be said that Mr Smith was present in the bank when the securities were uplifted by the If Mr Smith himself had

taken delivery of the securities in the premises of the bank, the company, as well as Mr Smith, would have been criminally liable for theft, and it could be said that the company had been present in the premises of the bank within clause 2. But the company's liability would be ton dissenting) allowed the irrelevant, since the theft would that day.

A junior employee of the company was present on company went to the bank's premises through its in any event had been committed by a real live person on those premises. Where Mr

Smith could not be said to be in present on the bank's premises then neither could

that be said of the company. The purpose of clause 2 was to limit in some way the liability of the underwriters for theft from the bank, such as abstraction by electronic means. What was in contemplation was a theft by a real live person in the bank.

Lord Lloyd, agreeing, said that no doubt the bank could. by paying an increased premi-um, have covered itself against theft by electronic transfer. But it might have decided to pay a lower premium and limit the cover to thefts by persons

actually on the premises.

Lord Nicholls, agreeing, said that the words in clause 2 were not satisfied by the presence of some innocent person acting on behalf of the person committing the theft.

Lord Steyn, dissenting, said that clause 2 was intended to introduce an element of physical presence on the premises. The bank's interpretation was loval to that objective: the company was present through its duly authorised agent. Lord Hoffmann said that "persons present on the premises" was not intended to

refer to companies at all. Ying Hui Tan, Barrister

صحدًا من الاجل

Lowering legal limits and random breath-testing would save more lives than advertising campaigns. Christian Wolmar reports

One more for the road – and the morgue

We are in for our annual dose of shock treatment tonight when this year's Christmas anti-drink-drive commercial is screened for the first time. It is, like last year's effort, aimed at young people who drink in pubs - the most easily targeted group of drink-drivers. The ad shows a young man being egged on to have "one more" drink in the pub. Then it cuts to his mother feeding the same chap, urging him to have "one more" spoonful of food: he has been left braindamaged after the inevitable

crash that followed his binge. Two decades of these shock ads have helped to change the social climate of drinking and driving. Drink-driving used to be considered a bit of a "laugh", the subject of pocket cartoons and comedians' jokes. Not any longer. It has become conventional wisdom that the drink-drive scourge has largely been

It used to be considered a bit of a laugh, the subject of pocket cartoons and comedians' jokes

beaten and that "one for the road" is as socially unacceptable as smoking in public places.

True, there has been an enormous social change, one of the great transformations in personal mores of recent years. Indeed, getting people not to drink and drive has become almost hip. This Christmas, Holsten Pils is running its own campaign and Coventry council has even taken to encouraging publicans to hand out blue ribbons to drivens as a way of reducing the stigma of not

drinking when out with the lads. This change in social behaviour has largely been brought about by a combination of enforcement - thanks to the introduction of the breathalyser and automatic driving bass and the excellence of the antidrink drive advertising com-paigns. But while the social has been reduced, it is not by a much as ministers and the

drinks industry like to suggest. There is still a massive car-nage on the roads, a toll well in excess of, say, the death rate from Ecstasy or even heroin. Last year, there were 520 drinkdrive-related deaths, 10 per week or one-seventh of all road deaths. Any other transportrelated disaster on this scale, especially when it is clearly preventable, would lead to enormous public concern and promises of action by ministers.

Deaths from drink driving drank beer in a pob or at Aged 25 to 54, they home befole aftending. drink beer in pubs before Miley are official unemployed, in social offending. They are C2DEs who deny that drink classes C2, D and E, with driving is wrong and feel previous convictions for that they are unlikely to be stopped. They believe they are good drivers who are unaffected by they drink strong beer at home or at friends' homes before offending. They are C1s and C2s, inexperienced drivers with a carefree **Drink drivers:** attitude to life, and easily influenced in the four types They know that their driving is impaired but still take the risk. by the Portman Group, DMB & B and the Department of Transport, Graphic; Mark Hayman Cartoons: Jim Pavlids

Contrast this with yester-day's detailed inquiry into the

Among large elements of the population, drink-driving is still seen as acceptable. The Portman Group, a research body drinkers, the "persisters", or sponsored by the drinks industry, has identified four key amoral "refuters" who aren't groups among the 90,000 peopothered if they do kill an old

represent 7 per cent of the total) still convicted each year of drink-driving offences. These are the "devastated professionais" who take a calculated risk on the way home from a party and find themselves up against the law; the "reckless" young drinkers, the "persisters", or bothered if they do kill an old

pub. There is also a fifth, heterogeneous group of one-offs, who cannot be put into any pre-

aged 18 to 30, are the easiest to rget, the ads tend to be aimed at them, but John Rae, director of the Portman Group and former headmaster of Westminster School, questions this strategy: "Directing the cambut it is important to find ways of aiming at other groups, too, if we are going to get the death toll down further."

There is a further problem about directing the publicity at pub drinking when young peo-ple increasingly take alcohol home to drink in front of the TV. Still, at least they will see the ads, unlike the young men in the pub. The rate at which the death toll is now falling suggests that conventional methods of targeting drink-drivers are no longer effective. While the toll fell sharply, from 1,643 in 1979 to 1,110 in 1983, it has fallen much more slowly since, with the expectation, from preliminary results for the first half of the year, that this year's figures will show no reduction at all, or

even a slight rise. Rob Gifford, of the Parliamentary Advisory Committee

the limit from 80mg to 50mg That month, there was a 9.6 pc cent drop in road accidents care ing injuries and a 23 per cent fa... in road deaths compared wit the previous December. Mr Gifford accepts that th.

publicity associated with th. change helped to reduce the tobut argues: "There are lots o Belgians alive today who other wise would have been dear-Surely that makes this type c change worthwhile." Mr Giffor says that there is increasing seentific evidence to suggest the 50mg is a better limit becaus that is the point when alcoho starts seriously to impair driving

However, ministers ar reluctant to introduce the limit advocated by some cam paigners. The politicians' argu ment is echoed by John Rawho says that retaining publi support is all important: "If yo

Once they start breaking the law, it becomes less of a barrier to further drinking'

you lose public backing becaus. people feel it is irrational. And once they start breaking th law, it becomes less of a barrie:

to further drinking."
This is refuted by Mr Gil ford, who says the evidenc from Belgium and Australia where some states have also implemented lower limits unequivocally shows that the incidence of severe overdrink ing is reduced, along with mor. minor transgressions of the law

The random breath-tess debate is equally fraught. John Rac outlines the case against: "Random testing means setting up roadblocks and stopping everybody. That would be

deeply unpopular."

In fact, the police can and de in effect already stop anyon: they want to. The really big impact would come from the publicity associated with for mally giving the police extr powers, which it is argued would deter many drink-drivers.

Mr Gifford believes it is time. to test public acceptance o. the idea: "Now that drink-dri ving is no longer socially acceptable, the majority of people who are not drink-driver-would be quite prepared to be stopped by the police."

Indeed, he is convinced that reducing the limit and bringing in random testing is inevitable. "As a society, we cannot continue tolerating 10 deaths per week.

sus us an blood on the pavement

that confirmly be broaderstafter the ties, who are over represented in a time special point assign to get a fine payment covered with blood. However, not everyone in adversary at the payment covered with blood. The death toll had street constant. They are subtained in infigurate at 600 for two years. But in 1993 it thing believes in shock tactics. They work for the young male and entered to the stronger, and in 1993 it whom they are almed, says Merry Baskin, head of account planning at and the summer of 1995 emphasis. They can be so disturbing was half on the effects of just a con-

on Transport Safety, reckons

that the time has come to change

drink-drive rules. The current

legal limit is 80 milligrammes of

alcohol per 100 millilitres of

blood, but Mr Gifford, along with the British Medical Asso-

ciation, argues that a reduction

from 80mg to 50mg, along with

the introduction of random

breath-testing, would bring

He points to Belgium, which

about a sharp reduction.

VICKY WARD

This week sees Judge Stephen Tumim, the newly retired chief inspector of prisons, take his last curtain call, still defiantly getting up the nose of the man who so cruelly removed him from his post – the Home Secretary, Michael Howard. On Thursday, Tumim attends a final special tribute to his work and his guest will be Derek Lewis, the recently sacked governor of HM prisons. The due are to attend a gala performance of West Side Story at Wandsworth prisons performed by invited as the contract of the story at Wandsworth prison.

prison performed by immates and Pimlico Opera. Since Lewis angrily accused Howard of unfair dismissal and interfering in operational matters this autumn. Tuming's gesture of friendship is likely to go down like a lead balloon at the Home Office. Still, Howard may take solace in the fact. that he can now pursue his tough on crime" policies unimpeded by Tumin's liberal interference. For how long, though, is a moot point. Methinks Turnim's final words in office are, ringing in the Home Secretary's ears at night: The pendulum will swing back again. It may not be until after the election, but remember, that is only a

Some interesting reading has fallen on to my desk concerning Ian McCartney, the shadow employment secretary. In May he issued a press release that vigorously deplored the half-year results of the Royal Bank of Scotland (the Tories' bankers), which announced that pre-tax profits had increased by one-third to £270m because the bank had made 200 staff redundant - part of a programme to shed 3,000 jobs by 1997.

The bank's chief executive, George Mathewson, was unamused. He replied to Tony Blair, with a copy both to McCartney and the Labour spokesman for the City, Alastair Darling, stating that he was very "surprised" by McCartney's press

McCartney interpreted the letter as a request for his sacking. He was ivid. Now, though, the brouhaha seems to be over. McCartney is triumphant. Why? For two reasons: first, as he puts it, "I'm still in the

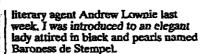


Here comes that judge again ...

job." Second, those forgiving people at the Royal Bank of Scotland have just given him a mortgage.

Manchester University had a novel way of celebrating National Tree Week, last week - it cut down a pine copse on the land of The Firs, former home of the late vice chancellor and editor of the Manchester Guardian, CP Scott, to create a car park. A nest of squirrels died in the process - and the sight of their bodies laid out on the university skip has greatly inflamed the university's green brigade (virtually the entire student population). The axeman responsible, Mr Furser, head of estates and services, is being bombarded with furious calls. When I rang to speak to him, his secretary sighed, "About the

It is not often that I meet convicted felons at drinks parties, so you may imagine my surprise when, at a literary do hosted by the Scottish



I'm afraid yours truly was quite nonplussed. My manners deserted me entirely - I stood and gawped, wondering how to start conversation. (Baroness de Stempel, for those who don't know, was sentenced to seven years in jail for swindling her late annt, Lady Illingworth, out of £500,000 - she spent four years inside and was released in 1993.) What is a girl meant to say to such a person in the way of small talk? I could hardly say, "Aren't you a criminal?" That would have been a bit rude. So, seeing as we were at a literary do, I opted for the tamer, "What have you written?"

The good lady saw my embarrassment and came to the rescue at once. "I have written a book about myself, but it has not yet been published." Pause. "But the reason you've heard of me is because I was convicted of fraud and spent four years in jail." Phew. After that we had a lovely long, perfectly normal conversation about the expense of renting London flats. ... Baroness de Stempel is moving to



And there goes that Baroness ...

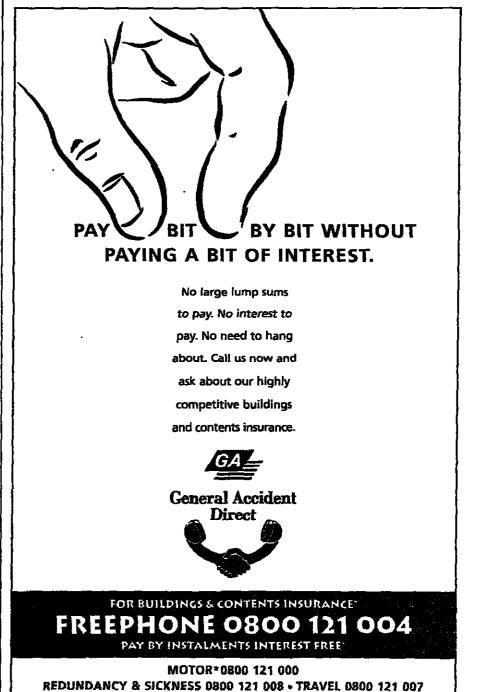
had a fascinating time last week visiting Gordon Medlicott, one of Britain's last lighthousekeepers they are all due to be replaced by antematic navigational systems by 1998. But Mr Medlicott, 54, who is



ead keeper at North Foreland lighthouse, near Broadstairs in Kent, was at great pains to debunk the myth (which I firmly believed in) that lighthouse keepers are meant to keep a look out for wrecks in the dark. "Unless the coastguard asks, then that is not, and has never been, one of our duties," he told me patiently. "In fact, I had a friend at - I won't say where – who only realised there was a ship aground outside his front door when he switched on his TV and saw

Whilst Fleet Street's incestuous world is abuzz with the news that the Daily Mail's features editor, Richard Addis, is shortly to become editor of the Express. Addis's wife, Noonie, has her mind on more academic affairs. She is devising an Ancient Roman boardgame, due for completion in February. "The idea is that lots of different Roman characters go around a street map of Rome buying ingredients for a Roman feast," she explains. "It is meant to be for all age groups - I thought of it because so many of my contemporaries were nostalgic for Latin lessons."

But Mrs Addis has one problem which readers may be able to assist with - choosing the game's name. "My last thought was 'Cicero'," she says. "And friends have suggested Caligula and Festina Lente." Send your suggestions my way. In the meantime, I'll start the ball rolling, cornily I'm afraid, with "Nil Desperandum".



Weekdays 8am - 8pm, 5at 9am - 2pm.

*Written details on request. General Accident Direct, FREEPOST, Hamilton ML3 1BR.

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Paying the price for Maastricht

Certain years in French history – 1789, 1848, 1870, 1968 – are embedded in Europe's collective memory in a way that is true for no other country. Should we be preparing ourselves to add 1996 to the list? As with those earlier dates, the crisis facing President Jacques Chirac and his conservative government has a significance extending beyond France's borders.
It is a crisis whose course and outcome will be decisive for the direction that Europe takes in the next century. The burden of responsibility on Mr Chirac and his

Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, is immense. No single motive underlies the strikes that have paralysed France's transport systems, brought out utility and postal workers and coincided with a wave of student demonstrations. Rather the French pub-lic is nursing a collection of extremely varicd grievances as well as an ill-defined but acute anxiety about the future. Labour unrest had been threatening to boil to the surface since Mr Chirac's election victory last May. However, the catalyst for the strikes was the government's decision in late October to implement an austerity programme aimed at reducing the state budget deficit and ensuring that France will qualify for the single European cur-rency planned for launch in January 1999. Since all of Europe accepts that monetary union will never happen without French participation, it is no exaggeration to say that the fate of the most ambitious project in the European Union's history hangs on the success of the French government's economic policies

The government will not find it easy to settle the strikes quickly while reassuring the financial markets that France will meet

piece of the austerity programme is a radical redesign of the debt-ridden welfare state, involving new taxes for all but the poorest people, controls on healthcare costs, and a demand that public-sector employees work longer for a full pension. If the government makes concessions to the strikers on these points, the markets will take it as evidence that France will not meet its deficit targets and the single cur-rency will not be launched in 1999. Yet if the government makes no concessions, the strikes will drag on, depressing the French economy and making it even more diffi-cult for the government to fulfil the Masstricht criteria on time. Heads or tails, it

seems, the government cannot win. So far, the railwaymen, electricity and gas workers, postal staff and other strikers have made no attempt to draw an intellectual connection between their protests and wider European issues. Yet the existence of such a connection is precisely what gives France's social unrest its historic importance. Viewed from a European perspective, the troubles represent nothing less than a popular outcry against the model of Europe designed at Maastricht. It is no coincidence that similar disturbances have begun to rock Belgium, where the government is also embarked on a retrenchment programme designed to slash the budget deficit. To meet the Maastricht terms, the French government has had to postpone its fight against unemployment, now at 11.5 per cent, and ask much of the working population to bear increased job insecurity, higher taxes and reduced benefits. Now it has serious social discontent on its the financial markets that France will meet the Maastricht treaty's conditions for is looking ominously high.

Keeping up with the Tories

In July, when the Government pro-posed a system of vouchers to pay for nursery schooling, Labour dismissed the policy as a "con". At the time, we pre-dicted that it would only be a matter of time before the party "eats its words and advocates an adapted form of vouchers". Sure enough, with the year not yet out, Labour is thinking about doing just that.

It could all prove to be a bit of an embarrassment for the Opposition. A sudden policv shift would be hard for many in the party to stomach, not least David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman. Yet, as we. report today, Tony Blair is preparing to gulp hard: he wants to have his own voucher policy ready for the general election.

Labour's proposed U-turn would be good news for those who support enhanced consumer power over public services. A voucher system offers parents a choice of nursery school. However, the Government's scheme is flawed. It offers parents of four-year-olds vouchers worth £1,100 to pay for nursery schooling, regardless of ncome. This wastes public funds because the scheme fails to target resources towards children of the low-paid.

So there is much for Labour to improve upon to combine choice with fairness. Its proposals should either means-test vouchers or make them taxable. That would be fairer and more cost-effective. Resources could then be freed to provide bigger vouchers to those eligible and extend their use to cover three- as well as four-yearolds. In short, Mr Blair should be able to trump the Government's £1,100.

That Labour is contemplating such a U-turn in its policies tells us much about a party that is desperate to win the general election. Mr Blair does not fancy opposing a scheme that is likely to prove popular with parents. He is ruthless in champing policy that could be an electoral handicap. The party is retreating ever faster - this time it took only five months - in areas where the Tories have taken the high ground.

But has anything more profound happened to Labour than an ability to comnete with the Tories? There are grounds for hope. A switch to supporting vouchers would be a vote for consumerism against producerism in the public sector. So are Labour's plans to be unveiled today for a crusade to raise teaching standards. The voucher scheme is also a move away from protecting the public sector against private competition: parents would not be bound to spend their vouchers in council

If the logic of this policy reversal was pursued to other areas then the days when state cash automatically went to stateowned schools and hospitals would be numbered. This would do for Labour policy on public services what the revision of

Clause Four did for nationalisation. Such a change would be a brave and dramatic departure, placing Tony Blair's party alongside those who use publicly funded services rather than those who provide them. If Labour took this step, we could at last say the party was innovating and not simply catching up with the

ANOTHER VIEW Robin Teverson

A fair deal on fishing

The Independent is correct to high-light the bleak future faced by fishermen in Newlyn. From my vantage point in the Fisheries Committee of the European Parliament, I have seen all too clearly how their plight is shared by skippers from every corner of Britain. But we cannot just bemoan their fate or use it as an excuse for the crude re-nationalisation of fisheries policy. There are alternatives.

We need to recognise that the current system is set to - quite literally - consume itself. Unlike farmers, fishermen have little opportunity to diversify. Faced with a threat to the stocks from other fleets, they are left to grab what they can, while they can. Lectures from high about sustainability do not help when the fishermen are concerned about surviving the next month, never mind the next 20 years.

Resolving that problem means creating a community of common interest among all skippers within a fishery – a system whereby collective action can be seen to further individual prosperity. The best way of doing that is not to nationalise fishing policy but to region-

While British fishermen may be suspicious of Brussels, they are right to be equally uncertain about depending on Whitehall Nationalising fisheries policy would merely accentuate the present situation where the various fishing fleets are set at each other's throats. It would benefit those countries with aggressively

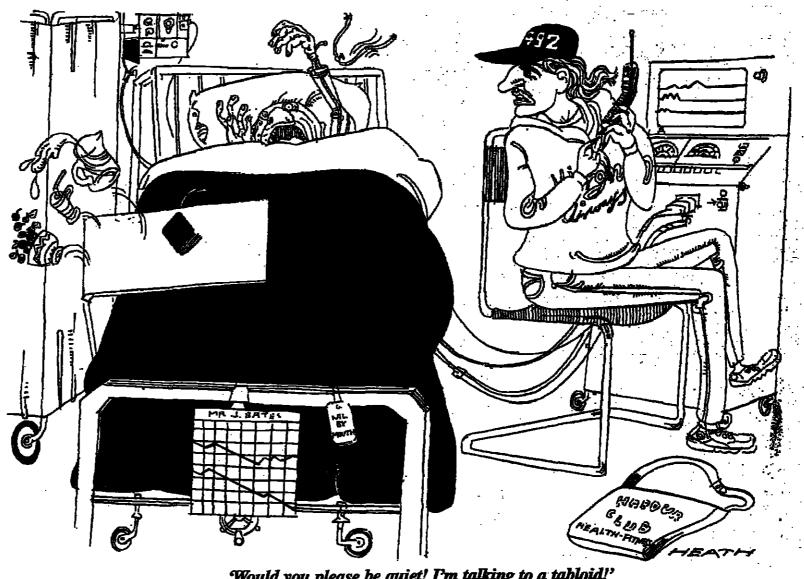
supportive governments and penalise those with more supine backup - notably

Instead we should create regional fishing bodies - for example, one for the Irish Sea fishermen, one for the North Sea and so on. The arguments would not instantly disappear and the fish stocks would not magically reappear. But it would bring together all those with directly shared interests and it would bypass governments that tend to make agreement on fishing part of broader package deals. In the UK that has too often meant selling out our fishermen. Fishing may not be a big industry in Britain, but it is vital to the coastal com-

munities that depend on it. At the Madrid summit this month, Europe's leaders will name the date for the start of next year's long awaited Inter-Governmental Conference. Its urgent task has become the capture of the citizen's heart and mind for Europe.

We all appland that. Rather than the usual focus on qualified majority voting, we could perhaps spare a little time for some of the small things in life, things about which we feel strongly and to which we can relate. Our fishing industry is one of these. Then maybe Newlyn, Looe, Padstow and Mevagissey, too, can have a working

The writer is Liberal Democrat MEP for Cornwall and West Plymouth.



Would you please be quiet! I'm talking to a tabloid!'

• LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

Home Office adds insult to injury over lone child refugees

From Ms Sandra Singer Sir: The article "Children sent alone to seek asylum in the UK" (4 December) highlights a humanitarian situation that the British Red Cross has been concerned about for some time.

Many young people arrive in Britain alone, as asylum-seekers or refugees, because of conflict in their country of origin. They often lose contact with their families because communication systems break down in war zones or because they are scared that trying to reach them will bring sary attention to relatives living in sensitive situations. Consequently, contact with family members may be lost for several years, or even forever.

Cross launches a special database that will hold information on unaccompanied minors. This means that if any inquiries about a child in the UK are received from family members, via the carriers, the Home Office has Two Garden C Red Cross International Mesmade legal travel to Britain for London, EC4

sage or Tracing Servicing Services, contact can be restored more easily. The database will work under the same neutrality that governs all Red Cross activity and the information will be strictly confidential; it will not be accessible to statutory authorities or other agencies. Yours faithfully,

SANDRA SINGER Head of International Welfare **British Red Cross** London, SW1

From Ms Frances Webber Sir: The Home Office minister Tim Kirkhope denounces as "immoral" the actions of parents package of Bill and regulations who send their children alone to that abandon victims of war, civil Britain to claim asylum. Has he was and opposite of the lessness and destitution, and Next week the British Red Britain to claim asylum. Has he British Government's actions that reduce asylum rights to hollow

have prevented those parents from bringing the children themselves? By visa controls and fines on

asylum well-nigh impossible. Faced with costs of thousands of dollars per person for the forged documents or illegal travel required to escape from hell whether in Somalia, Sri Lanka, ligeria or Algeria), most can't afford it. To castigate families in such dire straits as immoral for trying at least to get their children out payer is almost two-thirds of the adds insult to the massive injury done to refugees, and to the con-cept of asylum, by Mr Kirkhope's

predecessors over the past decade.

The real agenda behind this manufactured outrage is to provide bogus justification for the most draconian assault on refugees ever the Lilley Howard mockeries. Yours faithfully.

FRANCES WEBBER Two Garden Court Chambers

Stop trading with Burma

Sir; What utter desperation must

drive parents to send their chil-

dren, alone, to foreign countries:

perhaps never to see them again.

They obviously foresee no hope

whatsoever for them at home.

But, goodness me, the intolera-

ble annual cost to the British tax-

average annual fees paid over the

past five years to external con-

stem the flow of unaccompanied

children. Some of the regimes concerned will undoubtedly do

this very effectively, and may even achieve a final solution to

the problem. Whatever happened to Winston Churchill's

open door"?

Yours faithfully,

From Mr Hubert Richards

Sir. It was good to be reminded

by Fr Gilbert Markus (letter, 1

December) of the number of

before Luther. What he doesn't

mention is the number of voices

raised in disapproval. I quote two:

It is not necessary that the Bible be in the English tongue and in

the hands of the common people.

The distribution of the Bible, and

the permitting or denying it, is

totally in the hands of superiors.

(Thomas More as Lord Chan-

This new invention (printing) has produced various results, of which Your Holiness cannot be

ignorant. If it has restored books

and learning, it has also been the

daily cause of sectarianism and schism. People are beginning to

call into question the Church's

present faith and doctrines. Lay

people are reading the Bible, and

praying in their own language ... The mysteries of religion must be kept in the hands of the priests.

cellor, 1530)

DAVID BLAKE

sultants by the NHS.

From Ms Mairead Moguire

and others Sir: The British Government, through the Department of Trade and Industry, is holding a semi-nar in London on Tuesday this week aimed at stimulating interest in investment and trade in Burma. This seminar is the prelude to a DTI trade mission to Rangoon in February next year.

It is heartening to read that the Home Office is planning a crack-down on this "immoral" practice by seeking agreements with some of the main countries involved to Despite the welcome release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from six ears of house arrest, there have been no other positive changes in Burma. In fact, under the brutal State Law and Order Resolution Council, hundreds of political prisoners remain in fail, including MPs elected in 1990, and there have been further arrests. Serious human rights abuses continue, many of them directly linked to energy and tourism projects. Contrary to the British Government's claim that "trade access provide[s] a degree of leverage", increased trade and investment with the military regime only exacerbates suffering in Burma.

The DTT's promotion coincides clergy's bad books with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's firm request that overseas investors should "wait" until peace and democracy have been restored to Burma. In the US, selective purchasing legislation is being adopted by city and state councils vernacular languages into which the Bible was translated long

who refuse to support the regime. The recent events in Nigeria are a reminder of the consequences of investing in countries with ruthless military regimes. Unfortunately, this is a lesson that the British Government appears to prefer to ignore. instead of doing business with the generals, we should be looking at way to encourage the regime to stop its business of repression. Yours faithfully,

MAIREAD MAGUIRE (Nobel Laureate), Archbishop Desmond Tutu (Nobel Laureate), GLENYS KINNOCK (MEP), Sir David Steel, MP, YVETTE MAHON (Burma Action Group), PATRICIA BARNETT (Tourism London, N1

4 December

High-level loo

From Mrs Edomé Broughton-Adderley Sir. Baroness Thatcher's loo and

I are both mortified at my grand-son Alasdair's ill-chosen (one might say treacherous) remarks about it at Lucinda Lambton's party (Vicky Ward's diary, 28 November).

High on a pedestal in my drawing room, it has brought me fame, if not fortune. Three appearances on the box (£25 a gol). The late Lord Bath (a keen collector of Thatcher memorabilia) asked if he could use it. Horrified, I told him those days were past. Thwarted, he taunted me, saying he had a roll of her loo paper (unused). I could hardly speak for

The fact that some visitors don't spot it is because it is modestly hidden by greenery. It was Selina Scott who originally suggested it should be used as a jardinière. Lately, my chastity belt and Henry VIII's codpiece may have enlisted more attention, but the loo will, I hope, still be an object of veneration to my great grandchildren.

Yours truly, EDOME BROUGHTON-ADDERLEY London, SW3

Is the First Lady a Stepford Wife?

From Ms Sue Slipman Sir: I was one of those who, along with Tessa Blackstone (let-

ter, 2 December), participated in the meeting with Hillary Clinton and know that the American embassy expected Polly Toynbee to write about it. The debate occasionally broke through the social niceties

to confront real issues. In one such moment, I asked her why single mothers had become the symbols at the heart of the moral and social debates and the male backlash both here and in the US. Her response was pro-fessional and disappointing. It was a well-rehearsed reply, as if for an audience of political foes. It had more to do with avoiding banana skins than engaging with the issues and left no one in a position to probe further.

I do not blame her for this. The pressures upon her have been intense. I felt she was an intelligent woman constrained in a role she would not have chosen for herself.

To accuse her of being a Stepford Wife ("What have they done to Hillary?" 30 November) may be a little unfair, but to see her as fulfilling her destiny in her own right is a lot naïve.

May I please also use this opportunity, for the sake of my colleagues, to point out that I

am the director of the London TEC Council, not the "National TEC Council, although I am grateful that Polly Toynbee wanted to promote me. Yours sincerely, SUE SLIPMAN Director London TEC Council London, SE1

From Ms Sandra Andolora Sir: It was interesting to read of Hillary Clinton being referred to by Polly Toynbee as a "Stepford Wife. Mrs Clinton may be a lot of things, but a Stepford Wife she definitely ain t -ask anyone in the Republican Party, the Chinese government, the American Bar Association or the Nixon Watergate Impeachment Committee -

the list is endless. It is sad and pathetic that someone of her intellect, integrity and rare good intentions can be maligned by so many people – first, being thought of as a raving feminist and then as a cookiebaking Barbara Bush wannabe. Male politicians change tack every day – it's called public relations.

It is another sad fact that one does not win votes from the fiercely right moral majority in the US

grammes. She is only playing the | Good book in the enemy at their own game - and winning quite nicely by all Yours faithfully.

SANDRA ANDOLORA London, NW4 1 December

From Ms Brenda Brod

Sir: Accepted that Hillary Clinton's homily "A view from the White House" is best ignored, the remainder of Polly Toynbee's article addresses not the question of how Hillary can best use her formidable talents but demonstrates how preconceived ideas can flatten a personality as dynamic as Hillary's, even before she has been allowed to speak.

The Stepford Wife image is dated. Isn't what Mrs Clinton asked for - an invitation to converse with English women who might hold similar interests to hers - exactly how all women gather information?
As working women, with chil-

dren and concern for the future fabric of society, don't we all have the same questions concerning education, health, violence and, yes, single mothers? If Ms Toynbee was dissatisfied with the level of discussion, why not do what any good reporter does - ask better Yours sincerely.

why women vote Tory ("Women Like Us don't vote Labour", 30 November) might have turned to Ogden Nash for two reasons: Women would rather be right than reasonable

Yours truly.

Tanworth-in-Arden, Warwickshire stream of Kidderminster than above. I hear that great efforts Letters should be addressed to

0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@ independent co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We are unable to acknowledge unpub-lished letters. Back issues of the *Independent* are available from Historic Newspapers, 0809 06609.

role as a roving ambassador for Britain ("PM and Queen to discuss Diana's role", 4 December). I hope they remember that the Princess Royal has been doing quite a good job in that capacity for a few years now,

know that, as the two ladies have probably not had the chance to arrange a television interview with the BBC, or telephone the News of the World for a little

(Cardinal Wolsey to Pope Clement VII, 1523) Yours sincerely, by endorsing equal rights for women and children, and govern-ment-subsidised health pro-HUBERT RICHARDS BRENDA BROD Norwich London, NW3 1 December and are subject to tough regulations over what can be From Mr Walter Paul From Mr Peter Hill

Piling the blame on carpet-makers accepted at the sewage works. Even though some of the materials causing concern to environmentalists are already

at levels so dilute as sometimes

to be at the bottom edge of

detectability, the local carpet

industry has been co-operating

closely with the water authori-ties over what further improve-

ments might be made. Although the water quality of the Stour is not yet all it could be, at least it

is not identifiably worse down-

are now being made to improve

British Carpet Manufacturers'

the quality upstream.
Yours faithfully,

HUGH G. W. WILSON

Executive Director

Association

London, W1

From Mr Hugh G. W. Wilson Sir: The caption under the photograph of the River Stour accompanying your report on allegations of river pollution ("Industry carpeted as pollution poses fresh threat to otter", 29 November) states that the river is "polluted by waste wool". Wool as such has little to do with it and is not the only fibre used in making carpets these days. The tiny quantities of sheep dip residuals cause the problem, and many of those showing up in the Stour arise upstream, probably from farm run-offs.

For a long time, no carpet firm has been allowed to let any industrial effluent run off directly into the river. They discharge into the sewage system 30 November Sir: Polly Toynbee, in explaining

Plus ça change, plus c'est la mem-

Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. (Fax:

Royal role models

Sir. So, Her Majesty the Queen and the Prime Minister will dis-cuss the Princess of Wales's new especially with Save the Children as has the Duchess of Kent, with terminally ill children.

Maybe not a lot of people

Yours faithfully, WALTER PAUL: Glasgow 4 December

A lesson in the

en suite science

The secret that Blair and Major share

The party leaders broadly agree on European integration. Is this really too dangerous to admit?

Tin hats on, everytody. A phoney war is starting. Hunker down, gas masks at the ready. Eccowe! Kenarash! Europhobe attack on Euro-maniac bunker. Dakka-dakka! Sir Jimmy Goldsmith takes out federalist the hands of businessmen, consumers panzer division in City. Whurt-thump! and ordinary people ..."

EMU heavy antillery counter-attack near Shepherd's Bush.

On the single currency, Blair restated the Labour position that "it

Stop trac

with Bur

10 × 10 × 120

2757.

And a nation looks on, bewildered. is mobilising. John Redwood is organ-ising a campaign to persuade British is preparing an onslaught against Labour on its federalist agenda. Labour on its teneralist agenda. Labour is gearing up to attack the Thries for selling out British interests in Europe. Everywhere people are accusing one another of treason and—worse still—naïvety.

Yet on all the main questions, Labour agrees with the Government. And the noisiest anti-Maastricht rehels.

And the noisiest anti-Maastricht rebels have probably already won their main points. This is a phoney war because there isn't nearly enough disagreement left to justify the verbal violence being expended on it.

Tony Blair made a speech last Thursday which, in its European passages, could have been given by Malcolm Rifkind, John Major or Kenneth Clarke. He proposed three priorities for the European agenda. First was the for the European agenda. First was the the social and unemployment agendas speeding-up of negotiations on than the Conservatives are. The tone enlargement. Second was reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. Third was the need to achieve stronger economic growth through more open competition and a tougher approach

to unfair state subsidies. tinguished from those Tory ministers: are now astonishingly close. Labour has

people had become too far separated. The Union is now at a more manure stage. Increasingly, integration will happen by a process of organic growth,

cannot be forced in defiance of the Goldsmith's UK Referendum Party economic facts. But he went further, saying "it is a major step of integration, not to be taken lightly." Back in March in the Commons, he had argued business that a single currency would in the Commons, he had argued be a disaster. The Conservative Party unequivocally that "if the economic unequivocally that "he would be in conditions were right" he would be in favour of joining. He dismissed the political objections and the constitutional fears.

Finally, like Major, Blair has left open the question of whether he should romise a referendum. I get the impression that this is being considered by Labour. Both parties are watching the other almost obsessively, thinking like poker players, guessing when to move. So they now have identical European policies? No. Not quite. Labour is in favour of an extension of qualified majority voting on social, indus-trial and environmental policies. That matters. There's the social chapter, which matters too. There are differences on anti-racist policies. In office, Labour would be more interested in

But when it comes to the really big issues - federal destiny or Europe of nations? - yes or no to the single currency? - how much does enlargement Blair's analysis could hardly be dis-matter?-Labour and the Conservatives

this is insignificant.

would be far less nationalistic. None of



ANDREW MARR Columnist of the Year

It is a shock to find politicians hiding quite good news

ifestations of its conversion to Europe in the Eighties, while the Cabinet has kept the more extreme anti-Brussels Tories from winning any final victories.

So they have converged towards a position which assumes that federalism is waning, and aspires to wane it some more. They are right. Enlargement means that it will become progressively harder for the Commission to exercise the kind of control it has become used to, because the two basics of Europeanism, security and money (or fear and greed), will operate very differently in future.

Security, or fear, was the fundamental reason for European integration in the first place. Now it is the fundamental reason for pushing the Union to the East, But whereas security in the Cold War era was compatible with a tight, centrally organised Western European bloc, it now requires a larger, more diverse and hence less bureaucratically controllable

Money, or greed, will operate differently, ton. The old Europe may have been designed by political idealists, but it was built by subsidy. Yet now, if German taxpayers are asked to subsidise central Europe as well as southern Europe, they will simply revolt. The payments for Mediterranean motorways and olive farmers cannot be replicated for Slovene conference centres or Polish raspberry farms.

Nor will a single currency provide the new political magnetism. Any hard core of single-currency countries will be surrounded by a wide circle of competitive devaluers: that will not do very much for the European spirit.

Those simple assumptions about

the new Europe are more understood here than on the Continent, They underpinned Tony Blair's speech. But the politician who has been most elo-quent and compelling about them is John Major. Party politics dictates that both these men will try to persuade the country that the other is deluded - that there lies a huge gap of belief and analysis between them. And it just isn't true.

The Conservatives will libel Labour as a dangerously federalist party, happy to go along with whatever Franco-Germania requires. It ain't. Labour will pretend that the most anti-European language of the Tory right is repre-sentative of the central thrust of gov-

ernment policy. That ain't, either. Much synthetic indignation will be expended. Yet in fact the most substantial difference between them is more about party management. When the Conservatives say that Blair has ruthlessly moved his party to positions that they held out first, they are quite right. When he retorts that the Tory the effectiveness of Britain in Europe. that's true, too.

But it doesn't really matter - not compared with the fundamental agreement about the state of Europe and the best future for it, a consensus that is being, in effect, hidden from the electorate. In a country with a different electoral and political system, it might be something we were rather proud of.

Not here. Here, we're ashamed of it. And the situation will be further complicated and hidden by the activities of the anti-Maastricht rightwingers trying to scare us into believing that monetary union is an imminent problem. Goldsmith and all imply that there is a great anti-demo-cratic conspiracy that will steal away our pound.

Yet from Neil Kinnock in Brussels to Thatcherites in the City, from Paris to the Bundesbank, the likelihood of Europe making it by 1999 is waning. Nor, more importantly, does it seem credible that any government here would abolish the pound without either a referendum or a further general election campaign devoted to the issue. It would be too big a risk.

So we are in this extraordinary,

perverse situation, where the main parties share a more level-headed and realistic assessment of Britain's future in Europe than they are willing to admit, while on the fringes of politics, wild shricks of obsolete warning are rending the air. We are used to politicians hiding had news. It is a shock to find them hiding quite good news, Political columnists are employed to rouse the reader to worry or alarm. But on this issue, the more the smoke and noise, the more I dream of emulating Lord Whitehall and going round stir-

authorities, just as much of the Con-

servative agenda of the late Eighties

was first tested by councils such as

The influence of Birmingham, where Tim Brighouse, the chief education

officer, and Andy Howell, chair of the

headed the transformation of the edu-

cation service, is persuasive. In Birm-

ingham each school has set its own

improvement targets, five-year-olds are assessed on entry to school, there is a

Failing schools would

be closed, and maybe

reopened under new

management

Croydon and Wandsworth.

before. But I thought I was the only person it happened to.
"No, no. It is general. But because it happens in the bathroom, nobody mentions it."

Big Bang, genetics, etc. It's also about the small things in

Professor Rudolf Reinhardt

has specialised all his life in the

science of bathrooms. He has

never been asked on Start the

Week to talk about it. But he is

not bitter. He understands why

Melvyn Bragg never answers his letters. He thinks that Melvyn

Bragg probably does not believe

And is there such a thing? "Oh, yes," he will tell you,

there certainly is a science of

bathrooms. There are things

that happen in bathrooms

which happen nowhere else in the world. If you ignore bath-

room behaviour, you exclude part of the natural world."

Let's get this straight. Are

ou talking about the way

people behave, or the way

things behave in bathrooms?

"Not people," shrugs the pro-fessor. "Human behaviour baf-

fles me. It does not interest me.

What interests me are things like

the behaviour of feet in the

shower. You know that if you

stand in a bath to have a shower,

the underside of the feet some-

times stick to the enamel of the

bath? When you reach for the

taps or the soap, you take a step forward and fall over because

your feet are stuck to the bath!"

Yes, I had noticed this

there is such a thing as the sci-

ence of bathrooms.

life, like bathrooms.

What causes it? "Well, basically, it is some form of spontaneous suction that occurs when dry skin is surrounded by wet precipitation dence of new Labour's willingness to and meets another dry object. Or consider ideas on their merits, regardmaybe the combination of water less of ideological origins. The policy also draws on the experience of the and dirt on the foot makes a glue solution. Or maybe ... more successful Labour-held local

You mean, you don't know?
"That's right. We don't know. Nordo we know why it is always impossible to get the mix of hot and cold water right in a shower. Always!" But surely the mix is some-

times right? Reinhardt, "but it never stays

right. Have you not noticed that vhen a shower seems right it gradually gets hotter or colder?" Yes, but that is because someone else in the house has ust turned a tap on. "No, my friend. We have experimented with empty

houses, with people taking showers all alone, and even then the temperature changes." I see. What other bathroom phenomena are there? "Many, many. For instance,

cience is not just about the there is the strange process Dig things, like evolution, whereby, when we step out of a the Big Bang, genetics, being shower, there is always a patch called Dawkins or Hawking of soapy foam left somewhere and going on Start the Week to on our bodies, no matter how talk to Melvyn Bragg about well we have rinsed ourselves." the big things like evolution, the Yes, very true.

"I call' this Reinhardt's Syndrome."

Why? "Because I discovered and named it."

I mean, why does it need a

пате? "So that I will be remembered when I am dead. Long after I am gone, people will be about to step out of the shower and they will stop and say, 'Hold on! Reinhardt's Syndrome!' And they will locate one more patch of foam. Incidentally, this also applies to shaving. There is always one more bit usually on the earlobe. And if there is no foam, then there is always one bit of stubble you forgot to shave. It isn't really on the same level as Alzheimer's Disease



and Hodgkinson's Disease, is it?

"No, but at least it isn't a disease. Have you noticed that medical scientists always have diseases named after them, and never cures? It's always Bright's Disease but never Fleming's Penicillin. Well, having a syndrome is one step up. Right. Tell us more about

bathroom science.
"One of the curious scientific

laws governing bathrooms is the fact that a bathroom is the worst place to get dry after a bath. The air is so saturated with water after a bath that when you rub a towel over yourself you are merely moving areas of damp around. Scientifically speaking, get out of a bathroom to get dry.

There is a classic description of this in a Woody Allen short story. Do you remember it?"
No. I don't think ...

"He's just had a shower, and the warm mist is billowing out of his bathroom into his sittingroom. In an effort to cle opens the window, but instead of the warm mist going out, cold dry air comes in. In the middle of his living-room the cold front meets the warm front and it starts raining on his carpet! One of the great moments in world literature, I think, at least for a bathroom scientist."

If Professor Reinhards cannot ge on Melvyn Bragg, he will be available for consultation here, so please let us have all your queries about bathroom science.

Maastricht showed that élites and the recoiled from the more extreme mandivisions have dangerously hampered ring up apathy.

Today's lesson: excellence

As Labour unveils plans to raise classroom standards, Michael Barber offers a critical preview

Today, the Labour Party publishes its policy, document on standards in schools, Excellence for Everyone. The document takes Labour holdly into territory which for much of the past 10 years has been dominated by the Conscreatives. A few years ago talk of standards, excellence and dealing with fail-ure were almost taboo in Labour circles. The Blair revolution, led in education by David Blumkett has changed all that.

New Labour will insist on high standards Education, Peny Blair says.

will be the passion of his government. For years Labour has talked about creating successful schools for everyone; only this year, by facing the tough question of how to deal with failure,

On getting change from teachers, a balance of stick and carrot is proposed

has it begun to show it means it. Behind this new sense of purpose is Labour's recognition of the economic and social imperatives of the late 20th century. Its leaders know that much higher standards of education are an essential precondition of a successful British economy and an improved quality of life. As Tony Blair put it at Labour's conference "Education is the best economic policy we've got."
The ideas in Excellence for Everyone

have been developed over the past12 months in a series of speeches by Blair and Blunkett. Until mid-summer their. focus was on deciding what to do about opted-out schools. Once their proposals for bringing those schools within the local anthorny framework had been widely welcomed in June, they moved on to the task of staking out a new agenda on standards.

Excellence for Everyone is certainly ambitious, to judge from the lan-guage it uses. It talks about "a crusade to raise standards", "a decade of sus-tained improvement" and creating "a new Britain which can hold its head high in a modern world". It envisages an education system in which many more people will succeed in getting of a reconstruction of their profession, GCSE, A-level and vocational qualities to give it greater status. There would fications. The tone seems designed to be a General Teaching Council to co-opt teachers, parents and governors, for the first time since the war, into a national movement to transform education. But, thetoric aside, what of the detailed proposals?



A passion for learning: David Blunkett has led Labour's revolution in attitudes

The document sets out to encourage schools to improve themselves through setting targets, raising the sta-tus and levels of performance of teachers and involving parents as co-educators. This would undoubtedly require additional investment. While the document identifies money for smaller classes in infant schools, the core funding of education remains to

On the question of how to get the necessary results from those who will have to implement the policy - teachers - the document proposes a judicions balance of pressure and support, stick and carrot. Thus Labour promises teachers support in the form of a reconstruction of their profession, speak for teachers on educational issues. There would be new advanced pay grades to enable teachers to gain promotion and recognition without necessarily moving into management.

Other people - from business, for example - would be encouraged to becoming teaching associates. There would be greater para-professional support from classroom assistants and smaller classes in infant schools.

This is an indication that Labour sees improvement in nursery and primary education as the central prior-ity. Given the evidence published last week of falling reading standards, this emphasis is likely to be welcomed.

The pressure on teachers would be generated by requiring all schools to set targets for improvement and by insisting on the publication of perfor-mance data and regular inspection. Failing schools would be closed and, if necessary, reopened with a "fresh start" under new management. The process for removing a consistently poor teacher would be streamlined.

More pressure is promised on parents, too. The document proposes establishing minimum levels of homework for children at different ages. This

will require parents to insist that Neigh-bours is turned off. There would be home-school contracts obliging parents to sign up to supporting their child and the school. The rights that parents have acquired over the past decade are to be balanced by new responsibilities.

These ideas give today's policy proposals a coherence which has some-times been lacking in the past. In con-trast to the Government's clear drive for choice and diversity, Labour has often appeared to offer either reactive criticism or an unconnected assortment of policy wheezes. New Labour, on the other hand, has what Tony Blair would call a project: the creation of a modem public service in which individual schools have substantial autonomy and are held publicly accountable. Schools, staffed by a reinvigorated, constantly improving teaching profession, are being asked to lead the crusade.

In advancing this agenda, Labour policy builds on what the Government is already doing. This is further evi- London

city-wide literacy strategy and a constant emphasis on the importance of teachers improving their own skills. Not all Labour LEAs are as enlightened as Birmingham. As opted-out schools enter local-authority jurisdiction, there are bound to be tensions. And once central government requires local authorities to set targets, and then inspects them, those tensions will be exacerbated. A Labour government

will face tough decisions if a series of

school inspections were to suggest that LEAs were not having a positive

impact on standards.

It is also worth asking whether today's policy proposals will ultimately prove radical enough. The 21st century will usher in the "Learning Society". If the phrase is to mean anything, it must surely mean a society in which everyone is an active learner. Future governments will have to think in terms of widening the range of learning opportunities for young people outside school, especially in disadvantaged areas. Today's document proposes after-school study centres. but that can only be the start.

The creation of a Learning Society in this country will require a rethinking of our whole attitude to the provision of education. Excellence For Everyone, if implemented, would begin

The writer is professor of education at the Institute of Education, University of

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by Tony Reeve and Steve Way



Market Report: Ladbroke galiops ahead

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

business

MARKET SUMMARY STOCK MARKETS

82.60 unch 80.1 \$ Index

IN BRIEF

Kvaerner. The lower than expected cash offer came just under

a week after Kvaerner bid 100p a share for Amec's ordinary shares. It takes the value of the bid to £358m against expectations of £375m. Kvaerner is offering an alternative of 8.125 per cent un-

secured bonds valued at around 92p per preference share which it said provided shareholders with "a substantial uplift in the

credit backing to their investment". Amec described the offer

The monetary base rose by 0.7 per cent in November, taking the annual rate of growth up to 5.6 per cent. The rise gives Ed-

die George some extra ammunition if he wishes to resist a call

by Kenneth Clarke for a cut in interest rates when they meet

on December 13. But according to Nigel Richardson, head of

bond research at Yamaichi International, "the markets shrugged it off because it was seen as carrying neither inflationary im-

The City of London is confirmed as Europe's leading financial

centre - but the US investment banking giants that operate there outranked the Brits in the latest investment analysts' survey, out

Stephen Parker, managing director of Tempest Consultants, which conducted the 1995 Ranking of European Larger Com-

pany investment Analysts among Europe's leasing fund managers and finance directors, said there was "some amazement" in the

City about the results. "It's one thing to hear about it, it's another to see it set down in black and white. The big US invest-

ment banks have organised their research teams along pan-European lines for some time now, and this shows through," Mr Parker said.

Racal confirmed talks with British Rail on the acquisition of its

telecommunications arm. British Rail Telecommunications is thought to be worth £100m to £150m and is one of BR's biggest

non-passenger operations. Other bidders are believed to have included Nynex and NTL, which operates ITV's transmitters.

The locks to heaters group Williams Holdings warned that second half margins on its gas fires and electric blankets would be hit by the unusually warm weather. The group pointed the market towards the lower end of full-year forecasts, which range be-tween £225m to £235m, as it unveiled its third quarter trading review. The flotation of Cortworth last month would add an ex-

Racal confirms BR telecoms talks

Lower expectations for Williams

trading had changed little since its last update.

Individual share stakes worth £150bn

in UK companies were worth £154.6bn last year, the highest val-

ue ever recorded by Central Statistical Office surveys. A report

publihsed yesterday on the distribution of share ownership in

€.

UK listed companies shows the value of shares as £762bn.

Market shrugs off monetary growth

plications nor policy consequences."

London in the lead

yesterday, writes JohnWillcock.

Amec rejects latest Kvaemer offer

Her York cashings rates and Oil Steek January at 1438 June

as inadequate.

Defensive manoeuvre: Analysts unimpressed by break-up plan, while the slanging match continues

Forte announces plan to split hotels from restaurants

JOHN SHEPHERD

Forte yesterday proposed a radical break-up of its hotels and roadside restaurant businesses into two parts as a main plank of its defence against the hostile £3.3bn takeover bid

The plans involve floating the restaurant operations, encompassing Little Chef, Happy Eater, Welcome Break and the Cote France motorway service stations, as a separately listed

company.
Current shareholders in Forte would then own one share in the restaurants business and one share in the hotels operation, which would continue to be headed by Sir Rocco Forte. The company also plans to dispose of its 68 per cent, but limited voting, stake in the Savoy group, which it has tried unsuccessfully to take fully under its wing af-

ter 13 years of bitter fighting.

Analysts reckoned that the restaurants business could be worth between £1bn to £1.2bn. They were unsure, however how much of Forte's £1.3bn of debts would be apportioned to the business.

Investors and leisure anaysts said the plans alone, and he disclosure that Roberto Mendoza, vice-chairman of JP Morgan, had been recruited to the defence team, were unlikely to be enough to stop Forte slipping into the clutches of Granada. Shares in Forte fell 4p to 338p, while Granada, which has offered four of its own shares plus £23.50p in cash for every 15 shares in the target, ained 2p to 651p.
One analyst, who declined to

be named, said: "I'm not surprised by the plans. It is one of the panic buttons that Forte had to press. I don't think it is enough for Forte to remain independent ... unless they come up with further plans to sell off some trophy hotels." Forte has several trophy hotels in London, including the Grosvenor House and the Waldorf, and several abroad, including the lavishly re-furbished Eden in Rome.

Gerry Robinson, on Forte's plans: Like the captain of the Titanic

saying "we really planned to hit the iceberg"

Gerry Robinson, chief executive of Granada, also dismissed Forte's plans to demerge as being "like the captain of the Titanic saying 'we really planned to hit the iceberg'. Sir Rocco, Forte's chairman and chief executive, said the plans had been around for some time. "The bid from Granada enabled us to accelerate our strategy. He [Mr Robinson] has done a good job marketing our restaurant

The Forte defence plan will be presented to Forte's main institutional shareholders in Scotland today. Mr Robinson believes Sir Rocco and his team are wasting their time. "It's a huge mistake. We think people will clearly see that," Mr Robin-son said. "Suddenly in the last 10 days it [demerger] all swings into action, and has apparently been on the cards for months It seems odd to me.' Sir Rocco said SBC Warburg,

the merchant bank, had been formulating the proposal for months and in August "we really took a decision. We would probably have announced it next April with our full-year results." Sir Rocco, who declined to give specific financial details of the plans, added: "The demerger is a natural progres-

sion of what we've been doing in the last three years. When the White Hart and US Travelodge chain of hotels are sold, we will be down to two busine

hotels and restaurants.
"We will be the largest pure hotel company listed on the Stock Exchange. We will be a very sexy vehicle."

His views were lost on Mr

Robinson who, it emerged yes-terday, saw his salary rise 22 per cent to £700,000 last year. He said: "When we heard it [the demerger plan] we were pleased about it because it highlights the value of the offer very clearly to shareholders.

People think of demerging conglomerates as a good thing, but catering and hotels is mar-



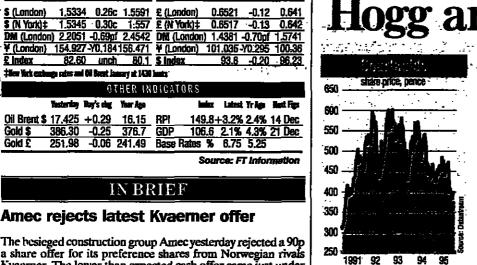
Sexy vehicle: Sir Rocco Forte sees the split as natural

huge. Everything about mid-market hotels and roadside restaurants from buying through to marketing goes to-gether. It is a surprising and wrong move to make."

What Mr Robinson has to say, however, carries little weight with Sir Rocco, who struggled to confine his

said: "The values we are creat-

Hogg and Huismans go in Courtaulds shake-up



TOM STEVENSON. Deputy City Editor

Courtaulds will lose its chairman and chief executive next year in chemicals group since it dedown after the company's annual meeting in July.

had been expected for some time. He is 59 and has been a forced out." non-executive director since in 1991, after 12 years in the job. and chief executive of engineer Committee, which brought him

But Sipko Huismans, Comp taulds's Dutch-born, South African-educated chief executive, had been expected to stay another couple of years.
One analyst said: "I am a lit-

tle surprised that Mr Huismans merged its textiles operation in decided to throw in the towel, 1990. Sir Christopher Hogg but he was obviously not the man. The City view is that he has been too optimistic and Sir Christopher's departure failed to deliver over the last few years, but I don't think he was

The top jobs go to Sir David stepping down as chief executive Lees, until recently chairman

GKN, who takes the chair, and into conflict with Postel (now Gordon Campbell, a Courtailds Hermes), the Post Office and rently Mr Huismans' deputy.

Explaining his decision to go early, Mr Huismans said: "It would have been unreasonable for the new chairman and I to contract. have to learn to live together for is an almost predictable cousequence of the Cadbury-imposed split that the two would leave together."

Mr Huismans has been openly critical of the recommendations of the Cadbury

man all his working life and cur- BT pension fund. Postel voted against his re-election to Courtaulds's board because of his unwillingness to reduce the duration of a three-year rolling The two events are under-

> reason Mr Huismans gave for his departure was that, at 55, he is still young enough to take on another high-profile job.

Although there will be no formal severance payment, he is

sion. It is not thought there will be other compensation for loss of his salary which amounted to £328,000 in the year to March 1995. Sir Christopher was paid £105,000 as chairman last year. Mr Huismans also has 195,000 exercising at the current share price. The strike prices of the remaining options range as high as 555p, compared with yesterday's close of 395p. Mr Huismans and Sir Christopher believed to be negotiating com-pensation to make good the have spent most of their work-ing lives with Courtaulds.

Moores family | Labour queries 'backs new bid' Young pay-off

NIGEL COPE

Sir David Alliance, the Coats Viyella and N Brown chairman who is leading a £1.1bn offer for the Littlewoods group, is be-lieved to have secured support from key members of the con-sold his stake in the company last trolling Moores family as speculation grew that rival offers were on the way.

Sir David met Littlewoods chairman Leonard van Geest in London where he confirmed his offer to buy the entire group in partnership with Iceland, the frozen food chain. The discussions were described as "friendly" and "constructive" and further meetings with Little-

which is expected to take some months. Sir David's offer will probably be discussed at the company's emergency meeting on Thursday along with the ri-

val £1.2bn offer from Barry Dale, the company's former chief executive. It appears in-creasingly unlikely that the family will support the Dale bid.

year - is acting as a link between Sir David's consortium and other members of the family. She and her brother Alexis speak for a significant percentage of the group's shares and are thought to be willing to listen to offers. James Suenson Taylor, an-

other family member of the board, is believed to favour fo-cusing the company on the high street stores – and possibly the woods executives are scheduled for next week.

Littlewoods yesterday advised shareholders to wait forreview of the company's options

The street stores – and possibly the football pools – rather than home-shopping which Sir David is keen to buy and merge with his N Brown group. If it is not possible to gain control of the which is expected to take some whole group, it is understood that Sir David will attempt to buy only the home shopping di-

The Labour Party yesterday demanded to know whether Lord Young of Graffham, the former chairman of Cable & Wireless, had received any remuneration from the company offshore where it would be subject to lower rates of interest controversy since Lord Young, than in the UK.

As the mystery over Lord Young's pay-off negotiations continues — Lord Young is reported to be pursuing a £2.5m pay-off in spite of earlier claims that he had no contract with the company - Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, wrote to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Itade, asking him to investigate the probity of a letter apparently signed by the late Lord Sharp, then chairman of Cable & Wireless, to Lord Young on his

Cable & Wireless yesterday said it could not comment on Investment Column, page 22 the subject of Lord Young's payoff. It dismissed stories of offshore tax payments or a secret

said yesterday that discussions were going on. "But they do not involve a letter from Lord Sharp," he said. The Sharp letter has become the centre of who was deposed two weeks ago as chairman, has reportedly referred to it to support his pay-off negotiations. Yesterday Mr Griffiths wrote to Mr Lang at the DTI saying that he was "very concerned about reports of the contract which Lord Young, the former chairman of Cable and Wireless, claims to hold".

"I understand that this constitutes a letter from the late Lord Sharp, the terms of which do not seem to have been revealed to other board members or shareholders in the company." Accountants say taxpayers

in Hong Kong would broadly ex-pect to pay 15 per cent in tax at higher income levels.

Lloyd's names face 'slow ruin'

JOHN EISENHAMMER Financial Editor

ceptional profit of around £9m, but overall the company said hands of the Lloyd's rescue plan, instead of its claim to offer release from their past trau-The proportion of shares owned by individuals fell continuously between 1963 and 1989, and since then has held at around 20 would be to close the insurance per cent, excluding unit trusts. Individuals' total share holdings market to new business.

Hard-line names yesterday said many faced slow ruin at the mas, and that the best solution all its old policies into a giant

The names, who represent some of those hardest hit, presented yesterday a 24-page alternative to Lloyd's own re-construction and renewal plan, ar-worse for too many long-suf-place an unacceptable drain settle on Lloyd's terms.

have suffered enormous losses in recent years and less of the professionals keen to keep the msurance market functioning.

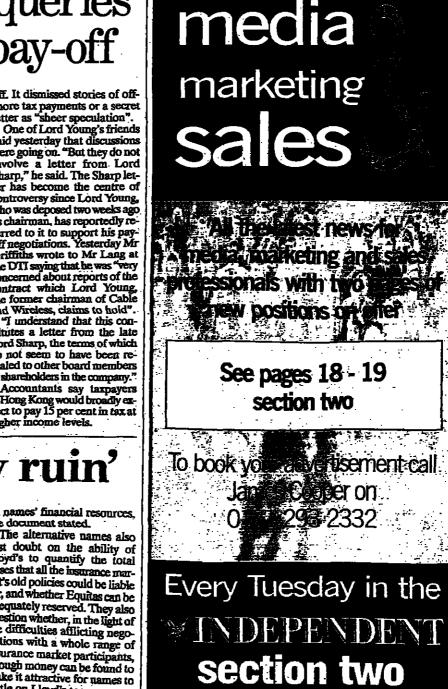
The Lloyd's plan to hive off reinsurance company called Equitas, into which names would be required to pay a final premium to end their liabilities, was criticised as running the se-

guing that their own proposals fering names. Alan Porter, a take more account of the interests of those individuals who "The Equitas route is not a guarantee of giving names fi-nality. Rather, it is in danger of runing another 5,000 names in

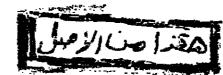
> ternative proposals, presented adequately reserved. They also yesterday by the Lloyd's Names question whether, in the light of Associations' Working Party, is that Equitas, in the form of the premium demands to insurance market participants, enough money can be found to make it attractive for names to

on names' financial resources, the document stated. The alternative names also

cast doubt on the ability of Lloyd's to quantify the total losses that all the insurance maran unnecessary way." ket's old policies could be liable
The key criticism of the alfor, and whether Equitas can be ket's old policies could be liable question whether, in the light of the difficulties afflicting negotiations with a whole range of



Equisition push S&N





Harkle

E auster

s ahead

Though this might be a step in the right direction, what we know of these plans so far is not going

to do the trick'

Forte's adopted strategy follows the fashion For a company that claims to have been these are one and the same business? The bear a great deal of scrutiny. The old baloney about wanting to spend time on other company that claims to have been a little baloney about wanting to spend time on other company.

for some months, Forte is remarkably thin on detail about the de-merger of its restaurants chain and other disposals. It seems doubtful the group would ever voluntarily have ceded empire in this way had it not been for Granada's hostile £3.2bn takeover bid. Disposal of the Savoy stake, which by Sir Rocco Forte's own admission is not going to be easy, is a reversal of what Forte has been striving for over many years. While it is true that this particular crusade was a strategy inberited from his father, Lord Forie, it seems hard to believe Sir Rocco would have calling off the 13-year siege without the

But let's be charitable and assume this is not the panic reaction it appears. Is this the right way forward - and is it enough to see off the Manchester invaders? Little Chef. Happy Eater and Welcome Break would together make an excellent standalone company, but they would probably be worth more in a series of trade sales. Granada itself might be in the queue if it were not bidding for the whole shebang. Indeed, as Granada is quick to point out, the whole concept of this demerger is flawed.

Breaking up is the fashionable thing these days. There are plenty of investment bankers making a good living out of unbundling the deals they set up in the 1980s and before. Fine, when it involves tractors and biscuits, but hotels and catering? Surely bankers making a good living out of unbundling the deals they set up in the 1980s

rate quote.

To demerge the Little Chefs from the Travelodges, many of which are on the same sites, seems commercially a much more contentious approach. Furthermore, it goes against the play Forte itself made of the expansion of Travelodge three years ago.

No, though this might be a step in the right direction, what we know of these plans so far is not going to do the trick. The bid is far from over yet and it would be wrong to think of this as Sir Rocco's last throw of the dice. Forte's defence document - expected to concentrate on trying to reverse the perception that Sir Rocco has been a failure as a chief executive - has yet to be published and it can be reasonably assumed it will add more twists to the tale. A full revaluation of property assets and a profits forecast is even further down the line. Nonetheless, Forte still has an uphill struggle judging by soundings taken among its big shareholders.

Leaving Courtaulds in better shape

demerger strategy might have been a little beloney about wanting to spend time on other shape than he found it, better focused or interests or their families is simply code and with a bright star in the new wonder for poor old Smithers and his same ways he leaves a company in better shape than he found it, better focused and with a bright star in the new wonder hotels that were being groomed for a sepa- for poor old Smithers not being up to the

On the face of it the justification for Sipko Huismans' early exit from Courtaulds raises the usual eyebrows - it looks just a little too neat and well-rehearsed to hold much water. It wouldn't be fair, the line goes, for the new chairman, Sir David Lees, to have to work out a modus vivendi with abrasive old Huismans - only to lose him after 18 months and have to start all over again with his replace-

But this time the cynics may be looking too hard for a story. If any FT-SE 100 chief executive could say in all seriousness, "it's a bit early but I'm only 55 and I'll see what turns up", Sipko Huismans is he. This is a man whose desk faces out of the window because he "likes to see the sky and the grass". There is no point, he has always maintained, in having a bit of money if you don't spend it - in his case on a yacht and a couple of houses. And if he believes that, with his mentor Sir Christopher Hogg moving on. he might find it hard to get on with the new man Sir David Lees, he is probably right. Sir David, patrician, diplomatic, financial is the antithesis of Sipko, the roly-poly rebel with a passionate belief in Britain's future in Europe and monetry union. Who can blame him for thinking that sort of courtship too much like hard work.

fibre Tencel. But the new team has a job to do. Since the textiles arm was spun off in 1990. Courtaulds shares have underperformed the rest of the market by a fifth. More worrying, they have lagged boring old ICI by 10 per cent.

A successful marriage second time around

The day after Swalec was privatised five L years ago, Welsh Water snapped up 10 per cent of the shares, and began making indecent proposals about collaboration. A sparky Swalec fought off the wet kiss and the reservoir bosses eventually bowed out of the shareholder register, bloody but un-

With the benefit of hindsight, this was clearly a mistake - given what has happened to Rec share prices in the meantime. and the way Welsh wasted cash on other diversifications. But for Swalec, the first ever approach to a Rec did have a salutary effect. It concentrated on raising efficiency and shareholder value. Though its hilly territory brings high costs that look poor in the league tables, in efficiency improvements and share price performance Swalec has been one of the best in the sector. Welsh has had to offer a top price to secure agreement. I society.

Oftel turns screw on BT for cheaper calls

leaves with a payoff worth nearly £1,000 a day for his two year tenure, will no doubt be crucified as a fat cat, but for shareholders he has earned every penny and more. Welsh will become the second combined electricity and water utility to emerge this year, and can claim to have thought of the idea well before North West Water, the empire builders of Warrington.

business

The parallel suggests that there is no case for a monopolies reference, though in fairness Welsh really ought to change its articles, which currently ban holdings above 15

The financial gains from higher gearing and tax efficiency are unarguable benefits for Welsh shareholders. The jury is out on the claimed operational efficiencies though the plans, on first exposure yesterday, sounded as if they had more bite in them than North West's.

Swalec shareholders can meanwhile say ves to a decent offer and leave somebody else to worry about whether it works. There is a slight bitter taste for small shareholders, which Swalec has in spades.

Swalec's previously announced £1 a share special dividend is to be included as part of the offer, giving tax exempt institutions a tax credit of another 25p a share. Once again. the exchequer is helping lubricate the wheels of a bid and underlining the point that these days, shareholders are a two class

1,600 Swalec staff to share £35m in takeover bonanza

PETER RODGERS Business Editor

More than 1,600 staff at Swalec, the South Wales electricity distributor, will make a £21,000a-head profit in a £35m bonanza on share options in the wake. of yesterday's agreed £872m takeover by Welsh Water. But 900 jobs are likely to go. Andrew Walker, chief exec-

£700,000, in pay and options. The agreed takeover deal, which will form Britain's second joint water and electricity util-

ity, brings a £35m bonanza to embers of Swalec's Share-

terday far from overjoyed because the share options profits come as more job losses loom.

Before leaving London for per cent limit on individual cardiff to brief staff, Mr Walk-shareholdings. He said there er said they were "very de-

group. However, staff were yes-

takeover, which came after Swalec's board fiercely rejected an informal offer of 916p a share last Thursday.

The company is expected to lose about 900 jobs in total from the 5,000 in the core water and electricity businesses, excluding benefit in price or extra investoffshoots such as contracting.

Of these, 600 are already

planned to go from Swalec and Welsh Water under existing utive of Swalec, will quit with a management plans, drawn up to payout expected to be around cut costs before the takeover The merger itself is expected

to lead to the loss of about 300 additional jobs, as a joint services company is set up, employing about 700 staff. Welsh Water said that about 40 per Options become automatic cent of the controllable costs of cally exercisable after a take- the two regulated businesses expected to tell staff they can the two corporate headquarters avoid a substantial tax liability in Cardiff are to be merged. by agreeing to transfer the Rhodri Morgan, Labour en-

demanded a Monopolies Commission reference because Welsh Water is permanently were questions over a bid-proof spondent" at the news of the company taking over an un-

protected one. Iain Evans, Welsh Water's chairman, said there would be no rebate for customers, but he promised that as cost savings came through the group would look at how to give them some of the

The change of heart at Swalec came after Welsh came back with another offer on Sunday morning of 940p a share - worth 965p to pension funds because of a tax rebate - with a cash alternative of 930p.

The offer is made after excluding the value of Welsh Water's National Grid shares, which are about to be handed back to shareholders and are worth 194p each to Swalec shareholders. Swalec shares Swalec shook hands on the

formalities were completed at 2.30am yesterday morning. Mr Walker said the offer met his demand for a price "well north" of 900p to secure agreement. He said he had been asked to leave by Welsh Water because there was no room for two

chief executives.

deal at 9pm on Sunday and the

It's good to pay less: Bob Hoskins, the acceptable face of BT television advertising campaign, will have even more to talk about if Oftel's latest proposals are accepted

Industrial Correspondent

Telephone charges for domestic consumers will fall in future under sweeping changes to BT's price controls proposed yesterday by Oftel, the industry

regulator.
Oftel, which launched a consultation on what the new controls should be, plans to clamp down on BT's rate of return and also said the group must improve efficiency to match the best companies in the US.

The proposals prompted warnings from BT that demands for further sharp efficiency gains would present an "enormous challenge" and would result in further job losses. Peter McCarthy-Ward, price review director, said that simply to sustain the level of efficiency gains over recent years we would need negative manpower". BT has shed 100,000 jobs over the past four years.

The changes proposed yes-terday by Don Cruickshank, director-general of Oftel, include for the first time in 1997 an overall cap on the charges for tel is saying that BT's profit levthe same time the regulator will introduce a new cap for domestic consumers from mid-1997, replacing the existing control, which limits price increases to inflation minus 7.5 percentage points. Mr Cruickshank said: "It will

mean cheaper telephone calls for consumers but by how much we will not know until next June." BT must then agree the new controls or be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

He added: "We will take a very bullish view of BT's potential for efficiency improvements [in setting the caps]."

Mr Cruickshank also said that some services where there was competition, such as international calls, may be removed from the price control. Others, such as calls from BT telephones to mobiles, which carry a relatively high charge, may be included for the first time.

The regulator said the aim was to remove or reduce from BT's control formula services where competition was thriving while keeping a cap in areas where BT still dominated. Even where services are exempt from the cap Oftel is likely to maintain a basic inflation-linked "safeguard" for consumers.

Mr Cruickshank surprised BT by saying that in working out the exact controls he will use a lower rate of return than the 15 per cent assumed today. One City analyst said: "This is nasty for BT if you read the detail. Oflower than they have ever said before. I would not accept this if I were BT."

Separately, Mr Cruickshank said prices for other operators to use BT wires would fall 20 per cent this year, backdated to April. Much of the reduction was due to a better allocation of costs following demands BT produce separate accounts for different parts of the business.

Acquisitions push S&N to 9% increase

Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, fresh from the £440m acquisition of Courage, unsettled investors yesterday with half-year pre-interest and pre-exceptional profits at the lower exceptional productions analysts' expectations at £158.2m. Shares dropped 12p to 619p.

The result for the period to 29 October, which was a 9 per cent. improvement on the comparable period, largely reflected the benefits of two acquisitions - the Chef & Brewer pub chain and Courage, which turned S&N from being into the fourthlargest brewer into the market leader ahead of Bass. Drinks analysts, however,

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said there were several encouraging aspects behind the results and viewed the share price fall as a knee-jenk reaction to an unexpected £80m reorganisation charge for a £70m asset write-down relating to

Only 11 weeks' figures from Courage, equating to an operating profit of £9m, were included in the results. This was better and expected, and analysts said demonstrated that S&N was continuing to gain market share in beer despite the natural problems of integrating the business.

Brian Stewart, chief executive of S&N, said Courage's volume beer sales rose 7 per cent compared with 1 per cent for the existing brewing business. The crather than later. Mr Stew-art declined to dismiss the coverall 4 per cent improve-overall 4 per cent improvement in beer volumes com- be sold. pered with 3 per cent for the rest of the market

The South benefited from to 6.55p. the weather, giving a I to 2 per

cent lift in the market. The beer market was also growing before the summer, giving an under-lying trend of growth," Mr

John Smith's bitter, part of the Courage brand stable, is now the country's best-selling ale, having recently overtaken Tetley bitter, which is owned by Carisberg Tetley.

Mr Stewart said, however. that while progress had been made over the summer and auturn there were strong signs that there would again be a big fight for market share among the big brewers at Christmas. He said there would again be a generous offering of discounts. I'm afraid the multi-buys are there in the pipeline."

While analysts were en-couraged by the brewing and pub results, they were concerned by the unexpectedly flat performance by the leisure division - namely the Center Parcs and Pontins holiday.

Operating profits from leisure operations rose 3.9 per cent to £50.9m. "Center Parcs turnover rose by 10 per cent but profits rose 4 to 5 per cent, held back by the costs of new Parcs coming on-stream and by the hot weather ... which affected spending," Mr Stewart added.

Results from Pontins were "broadly flat". The number of sites has been reduced from 23 to 19, and analysts believe that S&N will sell the business sooner rather than later. Mr Stewnotion that the business might

The interim dividend has been increased by 7.5 per cent Simon Pincombe CITY DIARY

The long and the short of it gives a new definition of hot money

The annual chilli competition at Bank of America reaches its gut-wrenching climax next week, promptin much concern and duodenal rumbling among the participating derivatives boys. The results are due to be announced on 14 December and will be followed by the traditional mass ingestion of

the fiery commodity. For a financial contribution into the pot (most of which goes to charity) the participants are given a no-tional £3m to invest on three different derivates products. The individual performances are measured over a number of weeks, with the deadline arriving on Thursday week. The one who makes the most money and the runner-up will receive a financial reward. The rest of the contes tants must eat raw chillies in the strict order of their rankings in the competition.
This is where the skill

comes in," said one trader. The third-placed contestant has first choice of up to 20 chillies which have been purchased for their individuality. Some are short and malevolent. Some are long and be-nign. Others are long and indescribably evil. The trick is to pick the right one. It is no good being fixed-income derivatives merchant at Bank of America if you don't know vour chillies.

That said, there is usually little anyone can do for the last-placed man who must reconcile himself for an afternoon with the fire bucket. On reflection Nick Leeson's six and a half years in Changi jail is looking lenient.

The sudden resignation of Sipko Huismans as chief executive of Courtaulds has posed nothing of a dilemma for the chemicals group over the BT Global Challenge - the round-the-world yacht race in which amateur sailors battle against

the prevailing winds. Mr Huismans, a frightfully keen sailor, had already booked his berth on the Courtaulds boat for the New Zealand-to-Sydney leg. Alas, he will not be with the company. The New Zealand-to-Sydl ney leg, which starts on 9



With two electricity companies taken out in quick succession one can't be too careful. Our picture today shows Malcolm Chatwin (left), chief executive of Yorkshire Electricity, demonstrating his defence tactics in the event of a likely bid. Yorkshire claims that Mr Chatwin is merely promoting the company's sponsorship of the National Armonries Museum in Leeds. It depends whether you believe the man on the right to be Guy Wilson, Master of Armouries. or Investment Column, page 22 the head of one of Yorkshire's institutional investors.

been dubbed "the chief exec's leg". The shortest pas-sage, at just 1,230 miles, it is seen by the sponsors as a chance to take part without too many risks and without spending too much time

away from the office. It should take about a week. Theoretically the berth could now go to Gordon Campbell, the new chief executive. But Mr Huismans, who owns a 46-foot, Frenchbuilt Oceanis yacht, is no slouch on the high seas and could even help the Courtaulds boat.

Courtaulds adopts the racing line. The company, which today announces the Courtaulds Trophy for each individual leg, feels it safer to leave Mr Huisman's berth undisturbed.

Peter Morgan, chairmandesignate of Swalec, formally agreed terms for the takeover of the south Wales electricity company by Welsh Water at 2.30 vesterday morning - and promptly signed away the job he will take up on 1 January. By his own calculations Mr Morgan, a former director-general of the Institute of Directors, will be in the job for about three days before he becomes redundant. He won't even make the first regular board meeting.

The betting is that Mark Andrews, the new senior partner at the solicitors Wilde Sapte will not be long in the job. So keen is the lawyer to play his French horn that he has taken to practising in the firm's underground





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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN Edited by TOM STEVENSON

Acquisitions put S&N in driving seat

acquisitions of the Chef & Brewer pub chain and Courage, which elevated it to pole position in the beer league. Without those purchases S&N would have produced very dull figures indeed for the half-year to October.

Group operating profits advanced from £167.7m to £176.1m. Of that £11.6m increase, £9m came from an 11-week Courage contribution and most of the rest from Chef & Brewer. The deals gave S&N a much-needed share of the South's preponderance of beer gardens, which thrived in the hot summer weather.

The hot weather may be good for beer sales, but for the leisure market it is bad news. Operating profits in the leisure division advanced a pedestrian 3.9 per cent to £50.9m, with customers at Center Parcs spending less on food, particularly at lunchtime, and the Pontins holiday camp business looking lost in a time warp. It can only be a matter of time before it is sold.

With no new Center Parcs due to open until 1997, S&N must work hard to improve results from leisure and the division's performance was the driving force behind a 12p fall in the share price to 617p. Adding 70 more villas to the Parc in the Loire valley will help, but there are signs that the op-erations's high re-booking percentage

is flagging.

The difficulties here, though, should be more than compensated for by advances in beer and pub retailing. S&N has barely got its feet under the table at Courage, but is already showing it

castle underline the importance of the strategy to steal a further march on the opposition - particularly Carlsberg Tetley. John Smith's bitter, part of the Courage stable, is outselling Tetley bit-ter. The reorganisation of Courage will eventually yield £75m of savings, which, given the annualised £40m of profits being made by Courage, makes the £440m purchase price look cheap.

S&N's shares have had a good run recently. Forecast profits of £312m this year imply a prospective price/earnings ratio of 15.5. The yield, assuming that the 6.55p interim is followed by a 12.95p final, is a market average 3.9 per cent. Not

cheap but, at a slight discount to Bass

Mixed fortunes over Littlewoods

and Whitbread, still good value.

The consortium that Sir David Alliance has assembled to try to buy the Littlewoods empire may have a reasonable chance of success but it is not necessarily good news for all investors.

Shareholders in N Brown, Sir David's mail order company, and Iceland, its frozen food retailing partner, could fare very differently if the bid succeeded. The most obvious measure of City sentiment was the move in vesterday's share prices. N Brown jumped 8p to an all-time high of 274p while Iceland was unchanged at 161p.

For shareholders in N Brown, the effects of the company getting its hands on Littlewoods mail order business should be good news. The

woods' home shopping would acceliss of £74.4m for the full year, this puts other profits warning, erate that move, increase direct selling the shares on a lowly rating of 10. How Many of the problems it faces are gistics and database skills.

N Brown shares have more than tre- in the existing business. Sell. bled over the last five years and analysts are forecasting £31m for the full year, which puts the shares on a rating of almost 20. High, but this is a to grips quality company and could work wonders with the Littlewoods business.

Trading record

Dividends per share (pence)

Pre-tax profits (Sm)

Scottish & Newcastle: at a glance

Market value: £3.78bn, share price 617p

1993 7 1994

16.8

450

Share price

16.0

Hazlewood gets

Hazlewood Foods has proven a highly This is less likely with Iceland. Ice-unrewarding investment since the land has been struggling with falling food group began its long restructur-

company has built its success on sell-margins and competition from the suing nearly six years ago. Worth more ing clothing to older customers, alpermarket chains. It also has no extens 240p at the beginning of 1990, the though it has recently been targeting perience in running a clothing chain shares have subsequently slithered to a younger audience. Buying Little-store. With analysts forecasting prof-99p, up 1p yesterday despite yet an

at the expense of Littlewoods' agency ever, this deal not only looks too much common to the industry. The rising cost system and introduce its marketing, lofor Iceland to take on but raises quesof raw materials this year will, on one tions about management's confidence estimate, out the sector's operating return on sales from 7 to 6 per cent. Hazlewood has therefore done well

to raise underlying margins from 3.6 to 5 per cent in the six months to September. The effort translated into first-half pre-tax profits up from £12.1m to £16.1m. Much of the relief came from get-

ting to grips with losses at four startoperations last year. But ziewood has also clawed back some of the gross margin erosion through

higher volumes and price increases.

The company's own-label chilled ready-meals business is growing at around 20 per cent a year, against a market expanding at 9 per cent, while cooking sauces for pasta, stir fry and the like are up 40 per cent or around four times the market rate. With convenience and ready meals 40 per cent of the group, there is clearly a good business trying to get out, but Hazle-wood remains saddled with less exciting operations ranging from pork pies to sour pickles.

The company warns that higher rationalisation charges and dilution from the sale of the shellfish division earlier this year will hit the second half. Full-year profits of somewhat over £34m would put the shares on a forward rating of nine. Fair value for now.

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Accounting

French trauma is a problem for all of Europe



ECONOMIC VIEW HAMISH McRAE

s this principally a French Lproblem or is it a wider Enropean one? Yesterday the coutinuing maynem in France started at last to spook the fi-nancial markets - which had hitherto been remarkably calm in the face of the growing un-rest. That sanguine view has gone, and if anything the sharp downgrading of the franc and franc-denominated securities may overstate the actual deterioration that has taken place. There were plenty of reasons to be concerned about the French economy ahead of the strikes and it is not at all clear that these concerns should be any greater now than they were a couple of weeks ago before the strikes took hold.

Understandably, perhaps, the markets seem to be seeing the difficulties mainly in Prench political terms. By downgrading French bonds yesterday they were suggesting implicitly that French fiscal policy will have to be relaxed to meet the demands of the strikers. In the sense that the new cabinet's deficit-cutting plans were tighter than was absolutely necessary to meet the Maastricht criteria, some rise in the projected deficit

ought to be acceptable to the markets. But since any easing represents a defeat for the plans of Mr Juppé's new cabinet, the question of "who gov-

ems France?" springs out. Investors do not mind the odd billion of extra borrowing, but when people start rioting they take fright.

But to see the French difficulties in French terms - as one of the periodic clashes that ocour between the elitist government and the ordinary people - is to miss a wider point. On a short-term view this is indeed a French problem. But on a longer-term perspective it is a pan-Buropean one.

Some numbers. The French budget deficit next year will be a little over 4 per cent of GDP, but not more than 4.5 per cent. In 1997 the latest plans would in theory bring it below 3 per sumptions the deficit will be same position as other Euroabout 3.5 per cent. True, unemployment at more than 11 per cent is high, but the current account surplus is equivalent to about 1 per cent of GDP, and inflation is very low.

These numbers are not so dissimilar to those of other European nations. The fiscal deficit and unemployment are poorish, but the current account and inflation are good. At the trough of the recession Britain's fiscal deficit reached 7.8 per cent of GDP, while France's peak was 6.1 per cent, so the French correction is smaller than our own. Even were France to run a deficit of 4.5 per cent of GDP next year that would be better than Italy, Spain, Sweden, Greece and Portugal, and much the same as Belgium. Overall debt is in the middle of the in-

The problem is not so much French finances now, rather it is what might happen in the next 15 to 25 years. At the moment France has just over 14 per cent of its population over the age of 65; by 2010 it will be about 17 per cent, and by 2020, 20 per at. But this is pretty standard. Italy is similar to France, but in Germany the corresponding percentages are 16, 20 and 22 per cent. A pensions system which just about functions now -only "just about" because social security contributions are already one of the main factors

MAN VIN

ploy French workers - cannot function in 15 or 25 years' time. But this is exactly the same problem that every Continental European economy faces: the pincer movement between a rising number of retired people and high social security commitments that have to be

making it uneconomic to em-

funded by a smaller group of people of working age.

In one sense the present Jup-pé plans are tighter than necessary, in that they are cutting back the fiscal deficit faster than the markets require in order to meet the politically inspired Maastricht criteria. But in another sense they are not tight

enough, in that

France and all

other Continen-

tal European

countries face a series of similar

austerity pack-

budgets, higher

When people start rioting in the streets. investors take fright

> will have to take place again and again through the next 25 years. At one level this is a clash between rulers and ruled: that is a particularly French problem, for while the gulf exists else-

where it is perhaps widest in France. But at another, more important, level it is a clash between demographic groups: the middle-aged and old, who expect to receive the social benefits they have been promised; and the young, who either face the prospect of taking home a smaller proportion of their earnings, or are excluded from the workforce altogether.

This does come back to France in one sense. The pean governments: it has to persuade an electorate that is increasingly numerically dominated by over-55s that expectations must be downgraded. That the government has so far proven unsuccessful suggests that the process of persuasion will be more difficult in France than in, say, Germany, where demographic pressures are actually greater, or Italy, where the fiscal starting point is worse.

But we cannot be certain of that. It may actually prove harder to explain to voters in Germany and Italy that the politicians can't keep their promises. This disruption in France may look like a re-run of the French past, the events of 1968. But it may be more a foretaste of the Continental future, as Europe cuts its governments back to size.

There is a

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IN BRIEF

Alba profits rise 27%

dustrial country range.

Alba, the consumer electronics group, increased profits before tax by 27 per cent to £2.58m. Earnings per share in the six months to September rose 23 per cent to 4.27p and there was a 14 per cent increase in the dividend from 1.1p to 1.25p.

Demand slows at Faber Prest

Faber Prest, the steel services and logistics group, warned that destocking by customers had led to a weakening of demand towards the end of the year to September which had continued in the current year. Profits before exceptional items increased 36 per cent to £8.2m (£6m).

Philip Harris improves to £1,18m

Orders at Philip Harris, the laboratory equipment and pharmacenticals group, have slowed since the first half to September, but the company is confident of a pick-up. During the first six months pre-tax profits, up 24 per cent to £1.18m, were struck from higher sales of £55.1m. Share earnings rose 24 per cent to 7.14p.

	. GV IIII AI	NY <u>result</u>		
	1 revereit	Pre-tax £	EP\$	Dividend
Alba (I)	69,4m (63.6m)	2,58m (2.03m)	4.27p (3.48p)	1.25p (1.1p)
Alles (I)	55.5m (49.4m)	3.6m (2.7m)	7 43p (6.48p)	2.5p (2p)
Acei (I)	61.\$m (50.3m)	4.45m (3.47m)	t3p (10.5p)	2.75p (2.44p)
Associated Horsing (2)	13.50 (8.5m)	1.2m (1.06m)	5.5p (5.5p)	0.85p (0.75p)
Father Prest (F)	98.9m (78.5m)	8.2m (6.6m)	42.06p (43.74p)	17p (15 5p)
Hadiolph (I)	12,8m (15,6m)	0.68m (0.52m)	6.1p (4.8p)	1.75p (1p)
Haziemoud Feede (I)	392m (426m)	16.1m (10.7m)	5.12p (1.27p)	2.4p (2.4p)
Oridanne (no (1)	40.5m (40.4m)	7.96m (6.3m)	11.7p (9.7p)	5p (4 6p)
Pyse (I)	45.1m (26.9m)	3.1m (2.85m)	4.3p (4p)	2p (2p)
Scottish & Hencestle (I)	1.355bn (1.01bn)	154.5m (145m)	20.6p (19.9p)	8.55p (6.09p
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market report/shares

Ladbroke puts in gallop on talks that Bass is fishing TAKING STOCK

Ladbroka, the betting and hotel group, is the latest tip for takeover action. In brisk trading the shares galloped 16p to 159p with Bass, the brewing giant which embraces the Fiolitical with the strain and Coral control of day Inn hotel chain and Coral

betting shops, rumoured as the potential bidder.

bostile bid; an offer of around 200p a share is the guess. The Ladbroke excitement is a further indication that corporate activity, real or rumoured, is the dominant Ladbroke board. influence in the stock market.

The story that Bass, off 9p at 674p, will pounce has kurked since Granada's spectacular but not entirely surprising strike at the Forte catering and hotel group.

The Granada bid - and Forte's response - have highlighted what are seen as Ladbroke's hidden attractions. Two investment houses pro-

looks a sitting target for a 200p a share is the guess. Bass is not noted for hostile

doubt, like the support of the But its need to grow could Overcome any reticence. After years as Britain's top brewer it was knocked off its perch by

recent deals could indicate it

wants to grow outside brewing.

It has surprised many in the City by making a success of Holiday Inn and is said to New York, finished off its have contemplated bidding for the US Hilton Hotels chain



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

> Stock market reporter of the year

prize. If it did descend on the betting struggler it would probably have to be prepared to sell, or at least reduce, the resultant betting shops chain to meet monopoly objections.

figures tomorrow when a Ladbroke bid could be announced. Scottish & Newcastle and its Its profits are likely to be around £592m against £555m.

gained 40p to 741p. BSkyB, the satellite television station, was the main blue-chip casualty, tumbling 40.5p at one time and closing 31.5p down at 397p. The Office of Fair Trading in-Bass is due to roll out year's vestigation continues to unsettle sentiment and the possibility of a challenge to its Premiership coverage added to the anxiety. Robert Fleming

BT, off 14.5p to 367.5p, suffered a triple hit; the latest Of- ate, was firm at 307p ahead of to 860p following two crosses worst at 3,669.7 points, off tel suggestions mingled with a Henderson Crosthwaite in above the then market price. under way. The extra cash

other inhibiting influence. Cable gained 15p to 475p.
The big bid of the day was

Welsh Water's offer for South Wales Electricity. The betterthan-expected terms lifted Swalec 42p to 925p and brightened other electricity shares.

Shares with a French con-

nection were under the whip of the country's industrial unrest. Enro Disney fell 15p to 155p; Eurotumnel 6p to 86p and Kingfisher 10p to 512p. Racal Electronics gained 17p to 270p ahead of today's interim figures. It confirmed it

was near to buying British Railway's telecommunications operation. Any deal could cost up to £150m.

Cookson, the conglomer-

Enterprise Oil rose 8p to PEX, a struggling clothing 363p, helped by the firmer group, has emerged as the crude price and concern over Saudi Arabian oil supplies. nessman, Andrea Catteneo British Petroleum improved 6p

to 531p. Profit caution from Williams Holdings left the shares 10p lower at 315p: Scottish & Newcastle dipped 12p

to 617p on its figures. Redland and RMC were ruffled by signs of economic contraction in Germany and BTR slipped 3p to 334p on fears of Australian selling. Lonrho improved 4p to 172p on demerger speculation.

Pittards, the leather group,

gained 8p to 57p on a £6.3m property sale and Psion, the computer group, jumped 67p

group, has emerged as the UK vehicle for Italian busi-Della Volta, who at one time had his eye on the Seet textile group. Through Uniwear, a quoted Belgian group where he has a 39 per cent interest, be is planning up to a £2m injection into the company. Uniwear is subscribing £1m for shares at 4.375p and upderwriting a £1m placing and

Ugland International, the shipping group, rose 3p to 73p with Kleinwort Benson forecasting 1996 profits of £2.45m or £4.26m, allowing for the £10m funding now

open offer at the same price.

The shares held at 8.5p.

-	Two investment house duced circulars outlini group's worth to a prec Ladbroke shares were pressure after it made a	es pro- ing the US Hilton Hotels chain. ing the With Ladbroke owning the dator. Hilton operation outside the Biotech added 43p to 1.7	worries about increased com- ritish petition. The story it could buy 118p, control of Hong Kong Telecom and from Cable & Wireless - or	a Henderson Crosthwaite investment dinner; MAID, making a presentation today, rose 25p to 299p and Memory Corporation, was little changed at 442p.	above the then market price. Cortworth, the engineer, made a firm début, trading at 155p against the 150p issue price. It was a buyout from Williams two years ago. under way. The extra cash will help the group extend its fleet; it is in talks to buy ships from the Norwegian Ugland family, probably in exchange for shares.
	Second S	EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES NVESTMENT COMPANIE 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 12 1	200 17 17 Seef Con 202 24 425 25 25 25 17 William 207 18 425 27 18 18 425 27 18 18 425 27 18 18 425 27 18 18 425 27 18 18 425 27 18 18 425 27 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18 18	### Company Co	SHARE PRICE DATA Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price-earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: ar Ex rights a Ex-dividend a Ex-all in Unlisted Securities Market a Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares. Scurre: Finstat. THE INDEPENDENT INDEX The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq, Simply dial 0891 123 335, followed by one of the two-digit codes helow FT-SE 100 - Real-time 60 Sterting Rates 64 Privatisation Issues 36 UK Stock Market Report 01 Bullion Report 05 Water Shares 30 UK Company News 62 Wall St Report 20 Electricity Shares 40 Foreagn Exchange 63 Tokyo Market 21 High Street Banks 41 Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 671 873 4378 (9.30am - 5.30pm). Calls cost 39p per minute telescop ratel, and 49p at all other times. Call charges include 13.7 MARKET LEADERS: TOP 20 VOLUMES Stack Varous Stock Varous Stock Varous Stock Larous 8500 Brom 6,000 Pt. Aerostaca 5,000 Pt. Indiago House 10,000 Wostone 8,200 Lorne 6,000 Pt. Aerostaca 5,000 Pt. Indiago House 10,000 Wostone 8,200 Lorne 6,000 Pt. Aerostaca 5,000 Pt. Indiago House 10,000 Wostone 8,200 Lorne 6,000 Pt. Aerostaca 5,000 Pt. Indiago House 10,000 Wostone 8,200 Lorne 6,000 Pt. Aerostaca 5,000 Pt. Indiago House 10,000
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ver by Mu

Stemp warned for abusive language

Pakistan A 214 & 154-4 England A 332-6 dec Match drawn

Yorkshire's slow left-arm bowler, Richard Stemp, was spoken to by the England A manager, John Emburey, after a complaint about abusive language.

partnership which was mainly ries lead to 1-0 going into Fri-responsible for the second Test day's final Test in Peshawar.

expected at the start of the tour. He will be reminded again." Only 69 overs were bowled

Australia turned over by Mushtaq

Australia 257 & 172 Pakistan win by 74 runs

Pakistan salvaged some pride by beating Australia by 74 runs yes-terday in the third and final Test in Sydney, after a mesmerising performance by the leg-spinner,

Mushtaq Ahmed. Mushtaq took four wickets to lift his haul for the series to 18 as Australia were shot out for on the final day. It was a dramatic reversal of form by Pak-

istan, who were beaten by big margins in the first two Tests. Mushtaq, overlooked for the first Test, was Pakistan's leading wicket-taker in all four Australian innings since his recall. Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, said Mushtaq and his Australian counterpart, Shane Warne, were the best two legspinners in the world.

Dotton

40.00

in Rawalpindi ending in a draw.

Richard Stemp has had Emburey said.

Asif Mujtaba, the Pakistan A yesterday as Pakistan employed captain, claimed Stemp had less than subtle time-wasting

JA - First lockage 257 (M EWaugh 116; Ahmed 5-95, Wastin Akram 4-50)

Australia have dropped the all rounder Greg Blewett for the first Test against Sri Lanka in Perth on Friday. Ausralia were forced to make two other changes because of injuries to Steve Wangh and Paul Reiffel. Ricky Ponting, Stuart Law and Michael Kasprowicz have been called into the 12-man squad.

abused him during his stand of 74 with Shakeel Ahmed - the result which keeps England's se-

Late in the day, Manzoor Akhtar, having been given not problems of temperament be-fore and he was told what was vinced he had edged lan Salisvinced he had edged lan Salisbury to Keith Piper, held up play for several minutes while lodging a complaint to umpire Mahboob Shah about the reaction of England's close fielders.

asser Hussain, the England A captain, said: "When I spoke to the umpire at the end of the game he said that the spirit had been good, apart from the inci-dent with Manzoor. It was a frusteat with maintoor, it was a mis-trating game, but we know that if it had been played over five days we would have won easily." (Final day of five; England A won 1055) PANGSTAN A - First binings 21.4 (Shakeel Ahmed 62; D W Headley 6-73). ENGLAND A - First binings

(Overnight: 281 for 2) R C Irani c sub b Athe

Extras (b3, b4, w1, nb1) 9
Total (for 6 dec, 105 overs) 332
Fell (cont): 3-291, 4-291, 5-303, 6-313. Two tours: 7-21, 4-21, 5-305, 6-315. Did not bat: D W Headey, T A Murson, R D Stemp.

Bouffing: Ather Laiq 27-4-84-3; Michammad Zahid 23-3-91-3; Ansor Alt 11-0-55-0; Selmen Fizzal 23-7-37-0, Asti Murson 3-0-90; Marcoor Aldrar 18-3-49-0.

PAKISTAN A - Second Innings seel Ahmed c Gallian b White "Asif Multaba c Piper b White



Oxford ambition fired by American grit

Rowing

HUGH MATHESON

Two gutsy Oxford crews raced the full four and a half miles of the Boat Race course and finished within a quarter length of each other yesterday to set a high standard for Cambridge to match this Friday. Using Onatop and Simonova,

names from the latest Bond movie, gave the clue that this might be an old story retold and in some respects it was, But, for Oxford at least, there was a fresh commitment and obstinacy about the whole thing which would have worried Britain's en-

across the Atlantic.

and into a stiff crosshead breeze the crews looked schoolboyish and flustered in the early minutes, but after passing Barn Elms with Simonova on Middlesex half a length up and with her cox, Todd Kristol, pushing hard and wide round the bend the strong men in the middle of each crew began to assert themselves, and some maturity

Kristol became so determined in his defence of stream that he had stolen from Alex case the shortest man in the Greaney, coxing Onatop, that the first serious clashes came be-

that much of the grit came from Harrods. Greaney deserved some of the blame for trying to Starting under cold grey skies cut back into his water by abruptly pulling across whenever he chose, but Kristol showed a Major-like deafness to the barrage of criticism coming from the coaching launches.

The cox's petulance seemed, however, to bring out the best in the oarsmen who, in spite of having done no speedwork in preparation, showed their passion by holding the rate above 34 strokes to the minute for the whole way and raising it to 38 for the last two minutes. In each crew was in the six seat and each held his boat together under

John Hammond, in a dynamic pair with the president. Robert Clegg, gave the length and steadiness for Onatop to come back into the race time and time again, and allowed the stern pair of Paul Berger. from the University of Pennsylvania, and Adam Frost, a at the finish. second-year Etonian, at stroke and seven respectively, to

In Simonova, the Canadian international Jeremy Howick was the 25-year-old rock behind which the 18-year-old Hamptonian, Charlie Humphries. could hide his considerable

drive the crew up to dizzy rat-

ings for December on a gusty

Damian West, who has come to Oxford after three years on the Tideway with London University. But whenever West's blade was clear of the clashes they could put in enough to keep Simonova a quarter length up

SHANNOVA (Surrey Statuon) Bow M Brown (Queen's Path Chester and One); 2 G Rosengers (Marchael and New); 3 E Bellaumy (Marchael and New); 5 C Humphries (Farmpton and New); 7 I Marchael (St. Cartenane); 5 C Humphries (St. Cartenane)

PLUMPTON

2.15 Court Melody 2.45 Bank Place 12.15 Pair Of Jacks 12.45 Robero 1.15 The Carrot Man 3.15 MEANUS MILLER (nap)

Left-tund, undulating course with sharp bends. Tricky downfull fence in back straight.

Upidif run-in of 200gds.

Course is off A275 S of Haywards Besth. Plumpton station stijoins course. ADMISSiON: Members £12; Tattersulis £8; Course £4; CAR PARE: £4 (centre of course) & £1.

■ LEADING TRAINERS WITH HINNERS; J Jenkins - 13 winners from 77 runners gives a surcess ratio of 16.9% and a loss to 21 level stake of \$38.41; C Egerton - 12 winners, 25 futbores, 48.9%, 3-24.7%, 7 futbor Beyen - 11 winners, 118 runners, 9.39%, 532.05; D Grissell - 10 winners, 64 maners, 15.6%, 533.42.

■ LEADING JOCKETS: A Magaire - 46 winners, 163 ddes, 22.2%, +\$11.05; B Dunners, 103.05; C 24.50; D Malance, 103.05; C 25.00; C 25

44.4% +530.45; J.O. ers, 53 rides, 22.6%. -£11.52. 44.4%, +220.4%; 2 OSCOTOS - 12 WINNESS, 53 1008, 22.5%, -2.11.5%
WINNESS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Head For Heaven (1.45) 2 During King (2.45) 4

won at Fontwell on Tuesday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: During King (2.45) has been sent 171 miles by M Bokon a

ŀ	12.1	SRIGHTON NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £2,085
11	n	SOLAR WASHING (22) Grown Except Fisich-House 5 11 10
1 2	104244	BORTHUMA (USA) (22) (CD) () Kennsen) R O'Sulbarn 5 11 7 D O'Sulbara
3	00-3054	FALSE CREEK (7) (Fred Coston) G Hamood 5 11.4
ļ ā		POBMS PRIDE (12) (D) (M A long) C Poptem 5 11 4
5		PAGE OF JACKS (17) (BF) (D Wilson) D Villion 5 10 12
6	0-5	RADOAPOSER QUEEN (87) (Max D.) Huzel D Cambollo 4 10 10Sopale Militaria (5)
7	·P	PRESIDENDAL (FR) (6) (A J Richards) K Curringham Brown 4 10 9
8	003	CAME DILEMBA (CD) (En M McGroun) J Mulina 4 10 7R Greene
9	·Q/5	MALINION BAY (25) (Season Racing) B Mobilath 7 10 6

BETTIME: 5-2 Pair Of Jacks, 7-2 Spann Piles Lings | 4 10 6 N Whith (7)

BETTIME: 5-2 Pair Of Jacks, 7-2 Spann Diseases, 5-1 Robbs Pride, 6-1 Sistims, 7-1 Released Queen,
8-1 False Creek, 12-1 Minifed Bay, 14-1 others
1994: no corresponding rack

PORM GUNDE

PAIR OF JACKS' only Flat win was gained at Kempton as a two-year-old in 1992 but he was pleased in all four hundle races last season and looks good anough judged on his three and a-half-length second behind Never So Blue when one of the featurists for a tedies handlesp at Notlinghem. He could find no extre on the run-in but he will be all the better for the outing. The only worny is the cut in the ground, as the selection's best form has been on a feater aurisce, but none of the opposition has shown anything on soft, either. Edutine, a winner here and at Forewell in August, both on the firm, has run well in most of his five starts since, including a second behind cast The Line and fourth to light Fist both over the starts since, including a second behind cast The Line and fourth to light Fist both over the starts since, including a second behind cast The Line and fourth to light Fist both over the starts since, including a second behind cast The Line and fourth to light Fist both over the starts since, including a second behind cast The Line and fourth to light Fist both over the start since, making a personne of 1994-95. He was having his first race since when last of five finishers to Northern Startight in a novice hendings at Taumton 12 days ago and will be truch sharper for that run. Games Diseasms tooks on the upgrade, healing taken the minor placing behand Envopaldeeds when a 33-1 shot at Folkestone two weeks ago, besten five lengths.

	17 ЛЕ	I DODES IN MORICE DOND'E (OCUSS E) ***	
4		4f Penalty Value £2,520	-
_			
L	663333	SCRIPT (IS) St M Eller J January 4 12 7	
•	·06-	DET OF INDUCES (2022) (The Feature Partnership) S Dow 5 11 0	A Diction
:	- i	CHICACHTOWN PORT (32) (John Pleckett) P Buster 5 11.0	A P McCov
i			
ı	55	DIGPRST (54) RT (05) (Burn) R (05) (Burn 5 11 0	D O'Stellen
		DREAM LEADER Date Roberts M Roberts 5 11 0.	T Grandmen
•			
1		MEL CAR R L Newbork & Backler 5 11 D.	
	60	PEPPEROUE (40) BM P Sadist) R Route 8 11 0	D CHERNA (T)
		ROBERO (10) (Robert & Electric Harriers) Mrs. J. Pitmen 4.11. ()	R Faccount
•	~~~	The state of the s	C Maladaia

115 GALLEANO' CHALLENGE CUP (CLASS D) (HANDICAP CHASE) £5,000 added 2m Penalty Value £3,493

3-41321 PAIS NINSTITEL (18) (CD) (K.) Hunti R Champion 10 12 0 . 1 3-4331 NUMBER (2019) (07) (N.) Number (2019) (10) (N.) Number (2019) (10) (N.) Number (2019) (N.) Number (

GRAN Moor 1994: Peus Ministrel 9 11 11 M Fizzgaraki 6-1 (R Champion) 5 ran

Pats Missisted would probably have wan Belstone Fox's race at Wetherby three weeks ago except for overproping and all but fasing three fences out and he came home lost of three. He made amends when defeating De Jordsan (the only other finisher) 20 lengths at Ainree three days afterwards and, though the majority of his victories have come on fast ground, he is a winner on the soft. Even so, Pats Minstell is no 12st and is doubtful whether he will manage the 10th concession to THE CARROT MAN, who want in at Market Resen on his final appearance of last season and comes here in top form. The Carrot Man followed an Ascot second behind Drummond Warder on his return with wins at Fortwell and Minderwhere he gave a 20-length beating to Driving Forto. He will not mind the giving and though up in the weights, might wall be open to further improvement. Selecting the LAR-ROT MAN.

145 HENFIELD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,400 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £1,790

2	U112	SOUTY PLAYER (10) (The lass S Partnersho) P. Curps 10 11 5 D Morris				
3		IMERINAN (B) (Alan C Cacorel) J Spearing 7 11 5				
4		TRACE ENOUGH (23) (The Least Patternie) C Brooks 6 11 2 G Bradley				
5		COLET MELOCIT (8) (Mich. Colum) P Nenots 7 11 1 (Sey A P McCoy				
6		DEEPENDABLE (574) (Ron Stone) Mrs L Richards 8 10 13				
7	5 6133U	GREEN WALK (15) (CD) IC Connects R Rove 8 10 9				
		-7 declared -				
àЕ	ETTING: 3-1 Nazzaro, 7-2 Court Melody, 4-1 Equity Player, 5-1 Deependable, 7-1 Gross Well, 8-					

You will not see a gamer victor than NAZZARO nor a better noe than that which Richan Durwopody gave Bill Turner's numer when he made all to master Bond Junior at Newton Ab and he acts on the soft. Thee Enough did not jump well when beaten a couple of its by Zaira at Forewell and has failed to get round in both attempts since, but will be wi

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Cebic Lilley St. 15.

BETTANC: 9-4 During King, 7-2 Bank, Place, 4-1 Yes Man, 9-2 Fresh Choice, 7-1 Celtic Lilley, 12-1
Yes We Are, Young Tess
1994: no corresponding race

1994: no corresponding race

FORM GUIDE

***ns Main beat DARTING WINGs nearly 22 lengths into third at Exeter at the end of October out there are good reasons why the selection should burn that form around. Yes Man followed up when defeating Romation a length and a half of Newbury but he turned in a length and a half of Newbury but he turned in a length should be not only a remote thard of four to Shith Too at Haydock. Darting Ming, on the other hand, comes here in winning form, going home by a neck from Woodlands Boy at Fortwell Soft) and he has a stone advantage with Yes Man compared with Haydock. Bank Place, who ran poorly when market leader at Newbury last month on his first appearance since March, should do much better in he first time brinkers.

Selection: DARTING KING:

3.15 EASTBOURNE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added 2m 4f Penalty Value £2,085 2323-6P LYING EYES (13) (SF) (A A Hobrook) W G M Turner £ 12 0 M Gafffats (7)
2 13-0905 EYER DE FRENEZ (FE) (13) (CD) (Ms. L R Browling) D Browning 9 11 13 A Tory
3 20-116 CALL ME AIR (25) (CD) (Ms. Rig. Bares) G L Moore £ 11 12 B Ferston (S)
4 2122/35 ELAZON OF TROY (17) (Deed F Wisson) T Thorson, Jones 6 11 12 A P MeChay
5 03521-4 GAMERREL GOLD (13) (CD) (Ms. Cardine March) S Dow 6 11 6 R Detancody
6 0213-2 MEDIALIS MILLER (17) (CD) (Ms. Cardine March) S Dow 6 11 6 R Detancody
7 R5404-0 CARTAX (19) (D) (Ms. V E Maurours) R Hoar 10 11 1 G Bradley
8 1-600 MEMBROLD (S) (DOS SQUE M Rivers 15 10 11 M Ahern
9 05P-1 SHOOPAKLEADA (15) Frank Arthurl D Gressal 5 10 7 D Bridgenster
9 destard - 9 destard - 9 destard - 9 destard - 10 destard - 10

1994; no corresponding race

FORM GUIDE

GAMEFIAL GOLD can complete a Dunwoody four-time. Trained by Simon Dow, who landed the William Hit Handicap Hurdle at Sandown on Saturday with Chief's Song, Gamefull Gold won over course and distance the season before last theeling Nazzaro four lengths and at Fortune Course and distance to see the season before last theeling Nazzaro four lengths and at Fortune Course at Windsor two weeks ago, Meanus Miller, whose single win so far was over course and distance on heavy going last season, jumped left most of the way when firsting numer-up to Celotate at Townesser last month (Blazon Of They a well-bestien fifth) on only her second race this term. She will be more at home on this left-hand track and rates a real great.

Selection: GAMEFULL COLD.

3.30 DECEMBER INTERMEDIATE NH FLAT RACE (CLASS H) £2,000 2m 110yds

Martha's Son ruled out for the season

Racing

Just when it scemed that Richard Dunwoody had cornered the market in good fortune there has been a setback to his domination of the major races. The champion jockey, who took four races and all the plaudits at Sandown on Saturday, was due to have been announced as the partner of urday, just 22 days after crack-Martha's Son in the King ing his left tibia at Ascot. But Martha's Son in the King George VI Chase at Kempton on Boxing Day, but instead the statement from Tim Forster, the gelding's trainer, told that his charge is injured and out for the

rest of the season. Forster had been faced with a difficult decision in replacing Rodney Farrant with Dunwoody. Farrant had ridden Martha's Son to seven wins in nine chases but was criticised for his performance when the pair were defeated by Travado at Huntingdon last time out.

"Martha's Son has leg trou-ble and will not run again this season, so that solves the jockcy problem," Forster said. "He got a little bit of a leg at Liverpool in April but, sadly, there's no such thing as having a little back on Wednesday." bit of a leg any more than being a little bit pregnant.
"He seemed all right after

Huntingdon but when we cantered him last week the warning light was flickering, so yesterday we said stop. It's all very sad but these things happen in racing."
Forster will still be repre-

likely to be back in action on Sat-Tony Dobbin, the regular part-ner of another King George contender. One Man, who suffered

sented in the King George by

the Mackeson winner, Dublin

Flyer, who like the other Kemp-

ton contenders had his odds

trimmed after the news of

chasing a hat-trick in the race but

for his last-fence fall a year ago,

is down to as low as 11-4 favourite to gain compensation.

His rider, Adrian Maguire, is

Martha's Son's absence. Barton Bank, who would be

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Pair Of Jacks (Plumpton 12.15) NB: Newhall Prince (Huntingdon 2.00)

hand and shoulder injuries in a fall at Catterick last month. may not be fit to accompany that horse at Haydock on Saturday. Dobbin's work on the grey yesterday posed more questions about rider than horse. "Tony said it was not very comfortable, his agent, Richard Hale, said, "We will abandon plans to come

King George Vf Chase (Kempton, 26 De-cember) Conab: 11-4 Berton Bank, 3-1 Mer-y Gale, 7-2 One Man, 6-1 Dubin Flyer, 12-1 Agan, Val D'Alene, 14-1 Book of Musso, 16-1 Monseur Le Cure, 20-1 others. William Hill: 11-4 Banton Benk, 100-30 Mer-y Gale, 4-1 One Man, 6-1 Dubin Flyer, 12-1 Algan, Coulton, 13-1 Val D'Alene, 16-1 Book of Musso, 20-1 others. Ladirolkes: 11-4 Banton Bank, 3-1 Meny Gale, 4-1 One Man, 6-1 Dubin Flyer, 10-1 Val D'Alene, Algan, 14-1 Coulton, 16-1 Book of Musso, 20-1 others.

Wakeham in line

Lord Wakeham, the former Conservative chief whip and leader of both houses of Parliament, is almost certain to succced Lord Hartington at the head of the racing industry as chairman of the British Horseracing Board.

Hartington, who achieved so much in ceding much of the power of the Jockey Club to the BHB and then steered the new organisation through its early life, ends his four-year term of office in June, Wakeham, who owned horses in the 1970s, is likely to be named as his suc-

cessor at the BHB's meeting on 9 January.

The appointment to racing's premier post will cap a re-markably swift rise for the 63vear-old Wakeham who had not held any office in the industry until elected as a BHB delegate by the board's Industry Committee last June.

Although retired from highlevel politics. Wakeham has many other commitments, including the chairmanship of the Press Complaints Commission and directorships with several companies.

RACELINE FULL RESULTS SERVICE 0891-168-168 HUNT'DON | 101 | 201 | 301 PLUMPTON 102 202 372 | G'HOUNDS | 122 | 222 | 422

★THE INDEPENDENT **Horse Racing** Results 0839 - 111 171 Commentary 0839 - 111 175 Seasur Brustoyscon/Hebbus 07: 485 5964 Cafe charged at My per gain thesp cate, 19p per cate at all other dates.

HYPERION

12.30 Wordsmith 1.00 Sharp Performer (nb) 1.30 Secretary Of State 2.00 Newhall Prince 2.30 Welsh Mill 3.00 Master Orchestra 3.30 Potter's Gale

HINTREDIES

GORNG: Good.

Right-hand, level course. Rum-in 200yda.

Course is at junction of Al and A604. Humingdon station Im.

ADMISSION: Members 512; Tatterraiks 58; Course 54. CAR PARKE.

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WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None-LONG-DASTANCE EUNNERS: Shellas Hillerest (1.0) has been som 210 miles by N Meson from Crook. Co Durham.

12.30 MONTAGLI CLAMING HUROLE (CLASS F)

that 12.10; 12.10; 12.10; 12.20; 12.3.69; There was no bud for wanner.

1.30; 1. CHARRANIO GALE (A West) 11.2;
Plant Gammer 9-2: 3. Forward Gian 20-1.

1.00 LONG SUTTON CONDITIONALS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 2m 4f 110yds

BETTING: 3-1 Handow Hundox, 7-2 Mester Piles, 7-1 Welsh Mill, Rival Bid, 8-1 Royal Crimows, 10-1 Bonjour, Purple Spinsh, 12-1 others 3.00 CROWLAND MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS F) £3,500 added 3m

6 3353-56 HitchLAND FLAME (13) A Blackmore 6 10 8 6 Hogan (3) 7 3PPP-3 PRECIOUS WONDER (10) P Butler 6 10 0 T J Morphy (3)

- 7 declared -BETTING: 8-4 Numbell Prison, 9-2 Annie Kelly, 5-1 Piepjack Lad, 8-1 Precious Wooder, Pull Shilling, Highland Paume, 12-1 Bright Season

2.30 BISHOP'S STORTFORD NOVICE HURDLE 100 (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 110yds

RACING RESULTS 1.45: 1. BELMORE ROCK (D Brojeveter) 12-LUDLOW Less: 1, SELMONE ROOK O Bridgette 12-1; 2, Euphermick 8-1; 3, Whose Wonder 8-1, 14 mm. 4-1 by Hoodwriser, 6, 7, M Pace, Wellington), Tota: £12-20; £3-60, £2-90, £1-90, DF: £50.40, CSP; £98.89, Treast: £753.33, Treast: 12.45: 1. STAC-POLLAIDH (J Ostome) 4-1: 2. Tomy's Mist 6-1: 3. Sefe Secret 20-1. 15 ran. 7-2 fav Double Jospanty (4th). 1. 1¼. (K Balley, Upper Lambourn). Total: 54.40; 52.20, 52.40, 59.00, Dr.: 513.50. CSP: 525.56. 140: 533.70. NR: The Gauf-ler, The Gaufler (50-1) was withdrawn not un-ter centers. Take 4 closs 00f Brook. 2.18: 1. FILL OF FREE Nor C Borrent 4-1; 2.18: 1. FILL OF FREE Nor C Borrent 4-1; 2. Jacom's Boy 9-4 fav; 3. Cartingford Belle 10-1. 8 fam. 3. 4. K Badey, Upper Lambaumi, lobs: 24.10; £1.20; £1.70; £2.00. DF: £6.90. CSF: £13.42. Tracest: £77.24.

Coy 8-11 tor, 2. Judicial Field 11-4: 3. Omed-ing Idea 8-1. 5 ran. 5, 15. (7 Forster. Wantage), Totae 51,70: £1.40, £1.30. DF: £2.80, CSF: £3.15.

3.00: 1. ROCKOT RUN (A Trouter) 5-2: 2. Grand Scenney 25-1: 3. Quert: Hill 100-1. 19 ran. 5-8 fav Wills Telerar (1ct). 30, 25. (Mes. Isranda V Russell, Vidross), Total: 53.50; £1.40, £2.40, £2.40, £2.40, £2.40, £2.50; £3.35. Tho: 5337, 80 (part wort; pool of £123.73 carried forward to Huntungton 2.30 total).

3.30: 1. ADAMANTIC (5 Molecel) 5-4 fav, 2. Doke of Parth 3-1: 3. Magains 30-1. 8 ran. 6, 7. (R Alan, Comilli-on-Tweed), Total: £2.60; £1.10, £1.10, £4.20. DF: £3.50. CSF: 15.83. Placepot: £220.60. Qualityot: not won (Pool of £37.00 cerned forward to Huntingson today). 6 ran. 6-5 for Fields): Blade (left), 6, 30, (Min 5 Bradhurte, Cuper), Tota: £4.00; £1.60, £2.60, DF; £12.90, CSF; £26.24, EDINBURGH 12.30: 1. SOLANEY GIRL (B Harding) 10-1. 2. Kinemertyen Girl 4-5 fer, 3. Chantry Bollini 14-1.9 ran. 6, 7. 6 Muringi, Carlski), Tokes 15.70: £1.10. £1.80, £3.00. Dr. 18.40, CSF: £11.73. Troc £26.90. NR: Charictoria, Strottions Dresm. EZOD, DY, EZZAD, COST, LOZON,
2.00: 1. CMANTRY BEATH (N HONDON) 51; 2. Sunden Spin 11-8 fav. 3. Keep Badting 9-2. 6 ress. 1/2, 1/2. (C Thronton,
Addictional), Totas EZ-70; ELTO, ELGO, DF.
22.10, CSF: £11.81, After a Stewards Inquity,
Statistics Technological 1.00: 1. BALLEROOD (Mr RAMSON) 3-1 far.
2. Grade Boy 8-1; 3. The Langding Lind 72. T ran. M. 342. (T Donnetty, Sandtroote).
Totace 2.70: 52: 70, 52: 90. DF; £13.90. CSF; £23.59. There was no but for witness. pacings imaliened.
2:30: 1. BLUE CHARM (T Reed) 5-1;2. Triconstant 14-1; 3. Stronning Spaing 7-1. 8 ran.
9-4 far Phasorestonaice (5th), 5, 74. Bits S
Beedburne, Cupari, Totas £4.40: £1.50, 22.40,
23.80. Dr. £26.80. CSP: £58.80. Tricast:

1.15: 1. SONE SETTER (N Marri) 9-4 h far; 2. Nadiad 10-1; 3. Mast Be Magical 4-1. 7 ran. 9-4 h far Person Tacus (dh). 1½, 20. 15 Meior. Swidon), Tacus (dh). £2.10, £3.30. DF: £9.40. CSF: £22.10.

2.48: 1. PROJECTS MATE (P McLoughin) 14-1: 2. Doubhessfortinner 4-1: 3. Donnston Boyo 3-1. 6:stn. 1%, 1. (R Brown, Aborgoverny). Total 5:23.70; FASO, 51.60, 07: 513.30. GSF: £62.48.

£2.60, CSF; £3.15.
3.45: 1. COME ON PENNY (D Leany) 7-1:
2. Drs Last 6-1; 3. Callemish Den 6-1, 13
ran. 4-5 (a) Commung (Cacher (5th), 1, 1, (D
Gandolio, Warnage), Total: £8.70; £2.50,
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£34.20, NR: Soff Drny,
Lackpoir not won (pool of £27,672.90 comed
faviard in Hunfington 1069);
Placepost £288.30, Quadepoir £84.80,
Place 6c £336.13, Place 5: £104.44.

3.15: 1 CLASS OF NINETYTWO (A P Mc-

Procurator Fiscal's interventions are cause for concern

creasing attention from the civauthorities, the latest intervention concerning Stewart McKimmie. The Procurator an on-field incident. Fiscal's office in Glasgow confirmed yesterday that police have been instructed to supply information on the incident during Saturday's 1-0 Premier Division defeat at Partick that led to the Aberdeen captain being sent off for an alleged elbowing offence.

"We have asked the police to supply certain information on the Partick Thistle v Aberdeen match at the weekend," was all

tor Fiscal's office in Glasgow would reveal on the beginnings of yet another investigation of

The trend began with the Duncan Ferguson case, which saw a professional footballer sent to prison for the first time for his conduct during a match. Paul Gascoigne, Alan McLaren and John Brown of Rangers and Billy Dodds, the Aberdeen striker, are the subjects of a report being compiled for the Procurator Fiscal for Glasgow. They are under investigation for incidents during the match between their clubs at Ibrox last month, a game in which John Rowbottom, the referee issued no punishments but the Scottish Football Association subsequently suspended Gascoigne and Brown on the basis of the

referee's supervisor's report. However, the theory that the Procurator acted because the football authorities did not falls down now. McKimmie was sent off after his tangle with Partick's Callum Milne. He was fined by his club and will be suspended in line with SFA rules. The intervention of the Procurator. therefore, would suggest that he

David McKinney reports on external pressures being felt in Scottish football

feels football is incapable of ad-equately policing itself. Ferguson, who had already been bound over to keep the peace, escaped punishment by the referee when he butted John McStay, yet there have been recent incidents on which the Procurator has turned a blind eye, leaving those in-volved in football with an uneasy feeling as they struggle to interpret the ground rules. Several players were involved

in ugly scenes at the Junior Cup Final between Largs Thistle and Glenafton at Ibrox in 1994 and in August of that year Craig Levein and Graham Hogg of Hearts exchanged punches during a friendly ainst Raith Rovers at Stark's Park. There was no action tak-

en against any player. While the feeling of the Ab-erdeen people at Pittockie is that the Procurator now has his foot in the door and will continue to

be involved in football matters, Tony Higgins, a former professional player and now secretary of the Scottish Professional Footballers' Association, is determined to establish the real position. "We have written to the Lord Advocate, via Brian Wilson MP, and have alerted our players to the increased involvement of the civil authorities in the game," he said. "In addition we will meet with the Managers and Coaches Association on Wednesday to discuss the issue but the message now seems to be that if events are reported they will be taken up.

"There is a new agenda now, so the players must do as much as they can while we would like clarification to establish where we stand because of the independent role of the Procurator Fiscal. This is a worrying trend because, although the game itself hasn't changed dramatically over the last 20 years, we have a new audience, and while no one would condone violent conduct we are seeing a proactive role from the Fiscal.

That new audience has the aid of the prying television eye, with controversial incidents dissected every weekend in the

country's living rooms. Now there is a danger that some peo-ple are looking to sanitise the game, which is embraced with as much passion and vigour in To drop (
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Scotland as anywhere in Europe.

A heavy-handed approach is cited as the reason Scottish clubs fail to make an impact in the European arena, but the cvidence from overseas suggests others are applying British fitness to their undoubted skills. Yet nowhere in Europe are players becoming as fearful of being involved in a tangle with opponents as Scots are - and

End of the dream for Maradona

Phil Davison in Buenos Aires finds the Boca Juniors love affair is turning sour

iego Armando Maradona is not used to having six goals knocked in against his side. It's about as rare as his

appearances at training.
It happened at the weekend, though, as Boca Juniors went down 6-4 to Racing Club in a vital league match that could end Boca's title hopes. The resuit knocked Boca off the top of the table, a point behind Velez Sarsfield with two games to play, and threatened to end the honeymoon between Maradona and the Boca fans.

For the first time, a few Boca nightmare. fans joined in the rival supporters' taunts of "Maradona, your mother's shell" - a vulgar anatomical ref-

erence in Spanish - in the More and more club's Bombonera stadium on fans feel that his will keep the Sunday night. new hairstyle Bombonera means how of sweets, but the represents what atmosphere quickly turned it looks like - a sour as 60,000 fans saw their Vellow Streak team defeated

in the 10-goal match. "Symbol of Boca," was the headline in the daily La Nacion yesterday, next to a picture of a dejected Maradona, "He didn't train all week. He said he to attend a barbecue," the pa-

per reported. Since his return to Boca in September at the end of a 15month ban for failing a dope test at last year's World Cup, the little man has not been out of the headlines. The working-class club from the Buenos Aires docks where the tango was born came up with some \$8m (£5.3m) for a 30-month contract. "God has given me to Boca," he said.

At the same time, they signed Maradona's international partner Claudio Caniggia, another player with a former cocaine problem, to form the "dream team". Despite Maradona's continued absence from training, things were going reasonably well until just before

kick-off on Sunday night. Boca had even voted in a new chairman minutes earlier, the motor industry mogul Mauricio Macri, who was expected to bring more sponsorship and more success next season.

But while Boca's captain, recently turned 35, was overweight, weary and lazy, a hungry Racing Club, themselves in third place in the league and still with a shot at the title, went on the rampage. Despite scoring a consolation penalty, for the dream team's captain it was a

We knew deep down we were letting the championship slip away," he said after the

> Faith? More and more Boca

fans are expressing the that Maradona's. latest hairstyle what it looks

we surrendered

like - a yellow streak. It was supposed to parallel the yellow stripe across Boca's blue jersey. Legend has it the club chose the colours when someone saw the flag on a Swedish freighter beginning of the century.

Maradona has gone missing several times in the last few months. "Donde está Diego?" (Where is Diego?) is perhaps the most common newspaper headline in Argentina. The last time - last month - he claimed he was depressed over the death of Sebastian Passarella, the teenage son of his former international team-mate and current Argentina manager, Daniel Passarella, in a car accident.

Inevitably, rumours are rife that he has returned to cocaine. which got him suspended while playing for Napoli in 1991 and arrested in Buenos Aires the following year. Until Sunday, Boca fans had given him the benefit of the doubt, hoping that mag-netic left foot could do just



Grim determination: Diego Maradona (centre) cannot prevent defeat by Racing Club on Sunday

enough to bring them only their second championship since a young Maradona helped them win it in 1981.

As he contined to gain weight this year - "the ball's the one that keeps moving and doesn't have No 10 written on it," goes A few days before the Racing a local joke - he had a face-lift, or jowi-trim as he preferred to put it, because: "I want to look good for my wife."

She, the peroxide blonde Claudia who has stood by him

iprocated with a breast imbarbaras" (her tits are fantastic). Tubby and unfit though he is, he still has the magic. It just comes in less frequent doses.

Club game, I watched him against arch-rivals River Plate, in what they call the Super-Derby, at River's Monumental Stadium where Argentina won the dramatic 1978 World

The atmosphere was almost plant, leading Diego to tell re- as electric as in 1978, this time scored with a 40-yard shot from porters: "Sus lolas son with River's red and white close to the touchline with the colours dominating as bombs. crackers, flares and sparklers went off and ticker tape and toilet rolls blocked out the

The little man still had the ability to drift past three men without looking down at the ball, to the cheers of los bosteros (the pigshits), as Boca's fans call themselves to distinguish themselves from River's middle-

Forest worried by yobs and strikers

class support. And he almost goalkeeper off his line.

Most of their fans still hope Maradona can pull it off for Boca over the next two vital games. Their biggest fan, 60vear-old Jose Barrita, head of their fan club and known as el abuelo (the grandfather), will be watching on television. He is currently in jail in connection with the murder of two River sternness to cope with it, but this

Venables has to start his final plans

Paul Merson hopes to complete his rehabilitation while Paul Ince seeks reconciliation when Terry Venables names his latest

England squad today.
Already, though, the door to next summer's European Championship squad is closing, with next Tuesday's Wembley friendly against qualifiers Por-tugal the coach's own deadline

for experimentation. It is still ajar for proven players like Tottenham's Darren Anderton and Liverpool's Jamie Redknapp when they recover from injury, and Venables will never shut it completely on a surge of form like that which has shot Nottingham Forest's Steve Stone to the forefront this season. However, now the time for consolidation and concentration begins, distilling the experience of his first 13 games and the 39 players he has used into a tight, tactical group through a fresh programme of New Year friendlies.

It is a critical period. Just hours before England play the Portuguese, they will be given their challenge for 1998, with the draw in Paris for the next World Cup qualifiers. Five days after the Wembley game, Eng-land will finally focus on their first competitive fixtures for more than two years when the draw is made in Birmingham for next summer's finals.

Displays like last month's 3-1 in against Switzerland - and just 24 hours' preparation for a game brought forward to Tuesday to avoid a clash with the Anfield play-off between the Republic of Ireland and the Netherlands are also reasons not to tinker with the squad. With Graeme Le

appearance, there are few vacancies, though the welcome mat will be out for Middlesbrough's Nick Barmby, who is fit to return.

Venables would like to find room, too, for Paul Merson and complete the 27-year-old Arsenal midfielder's dramatic escape from his personal problems. Recalled after injury to the squad last month, David Platt was rocked when he failed to make the team, but his excellent form should restore

him against the Portuguese. With Paul Gascoigne, Steve McManaman and Robert Lee all rising to the challenge of competition, the case for the likes of Ince or John Barnes is weakening. Indispensable little more than six months ago, before a damaging court case and a debilitating move from Man-chester United to Internazionale. Ince has been out of favour since snubbing the summer Umbro Cup. Venables said last month he would give him more time to settle in Italy but, if he does not return now, he will surely fear the worst.

Already the national coach has pared down his strikeforce to five - Alan Shearer, Les Ferdinand and Teddy Sheringham backed by Barmby and Peter Beardsley - with maybe another cut to come. He has to choose whether to persevere with Shearer, 21 goals for Blackburn but none for England in nine games, or give Ferdinand his head at last after 20 goals for Newcastle. Either way, Sheringham now looks the first name down on the team-sheet.

Defence, though, is once again England's great strength Blackburn punch-up and Stone with only one goal conceded in

a success on his second substitute three games. Ferdinand's true grit

Les Ferdinand has scored 20 silience," Ferdinand said. "To goals since his £6m move to win things you have got to pull Newcastle last summer - only six short of his previous best return with four months of the

season still to run. Ferdinand's success in the famous No 9 shirt is propelling Kevin Keegan's side towards their first championship since 1927 and they are determined not to let the chance slip as they did a vear ago.

"People have said in the past that Newcastle baven't had the

the best out of each other. Perhaps we didn't do it against Wimbledon, but if we are going to win the championship we have to command the best from each other week in, week out."

Ferdinand scored twice and make the other in the 3-3 draw against the Dons on Sunday.
"His performance was exceptional and he scored two great strikers' goals," Keegan said. "But his work all round of holding up the ball and helping out in defence was just outstanding."

Roberts makes plea

to McGhee

Iwan Roberts yesterday did his

bit to prevent Mark McGhee leaving Leicester City for the va-

cant manager's chair at Wolves.
As training went on as usual in McGhee's absence at Fil-

bert Street, the Leicester striker said: "It's a big chance to manage a club like Wolves but the

only thing they have that's su-perior to Leicester is their sta-

dium. On the field there's no

Despite McGhee, 38 yester-

day, having indicated that he wants the job, Leicester have re-

McStay's dawn chorus

Celtic supporters were up before dawn yesterday to buy tickets for Paul McStay's testimonial match against Manchester United on 12 December.

The first fans arrived at one o'clock in the morning," Peter McLean, a Celtic spokesman, said. "By 8.30am the queues were stretching down the street and that was still three hours be-fore the tickets went on sale."

Celtic are hoping to be given the green light later this week to open a temporary stand at the currently two-sided ground to push the capacity for the game to over 37,000. With tickets priced at £12 for adults and £5 for children and OAPs, the Scottish international, who joined the club in February 1991, looks set to earn close to £400,000 from the match.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

it is no surprise to Johnny Metgod that his old club, Nottingham Forest, are already England's last standard bearers in Europe. "All the time I was in England, people were saying they would have to change or fall behind," the former Dutch international midfielder said. "Ten years later, they are saying the same thing." Metaod, 37, spent three years

at the City Ground, followed by a season with Tottenham, before returning to the Netherlands in 1988 to join Feyerloord, for whom he is lacking. Still there are players, cennow head of youth development. tre-backs for example, big blokes He lives in a village outside Rot-full of character, but who seem to terdam with his wife, Petty, their son want to kick the ball as far away and two daughters.

should not happen. The kids here years ago, but says he now "thinks don't play in the streets any more. like a coach rather than a player." but we take them at six years old, and wants to test himself at the and create situations which are like highest level. "I need only one more playing in the streets. Each play- qualification to be a head coach in er gets a ball to work with and does the First Division here, but I wouldn't nothing else. There is no point in mind the chance to work in Engasking a boy to pass the ball if he land if the right job came along."



as they can, as if it frightens them." "There is no reason why change Metgod stopped playing only two

Apart from Brian Clough cuffing a few supporters who had invaded the pitch, Nottingham Forest have rarely been associated with crowd trouble. However, they

carry the English standard into Europe tonight hoping that their success has not attracted the wrong kind of flag-wavers.

Olympique Lyonnais, their opponents in tonight's Uefa Cup third round second leg, are ex-pected to flout the regulations of the governing body of European football and sell tickets on the day of the match. Although this happened without problems in both Forest's previous European ties, in Malmo and Auxerre, Forest are aware that the risk increases in line with their profile.

1,000 tickets we have sold. But though Uefa would take that into account if anything happened, the stigma of trouble would still reflect badly upon the club. It certainly would not do English football any good." Fortugately the police are

"Tam concerned," said Frank Glenn Moore on Clark, the Forest manager. "There might be a few national yobbos who decide to have a day trip and cause a bit of mavhem. The club has done everything we can. We have taken names and addresses for each of the the dispute spreading to the airports - and preventing their

yet to be dragged into the wave of strikes which are slowly paralysing France - although they may join in if they contin-ue. Apart from the possibility of

said Clark last night, "it depends tonight's challenge to the last British club left in Europe

post-match return tonight - Forest are more worried about their four strikers than France's 8,000. With Bryan Roy injured, Kevin Campbell ill, and Andrea Silenzi still struggling to find form, they are hoping Jason Lee will be fit enough to lead the attack. Lee has missed three games, including the first leg which Forest won 1-0, with a thigh injury. "He has a chance," full appearances, but Clark said he was confident they could handle the occasion.

how he reacts to training. Forest's progress has been characterised by defensive soligity - they have conceded two goals in five games - but Clark emphasised: We are looking to score. If we get one they will have to score three and I cannot see them doing that."

Clark will not reveal his hand but Silenzi is only likely to play if Lee is unfit. Either Paul Mo-Gregor, who scored the first-leg winner, or Stephen Howe (who created it) may then be entrusted with the linking role. Neither has made half a dozen

The French will be without Florent Laville, who is suspended after being dismissed at the City Ground. Eric As-sadourian is expected to return to partner the impressive youngster, Florian Maurice, in attack

Another tight match is envisaged. "I would like us to be entertaining and expansive but we will we do whatever is required," Clark added. "The next round is not until March so if we get through we can put it on the back burner for a few months knowing it is something to look forward to." If they do not, the European

competitions will be devoid of British interest until August...

fused him permission to talk to Wolves. I should have the right at least to hear what they have to say so that I can make my mind up," he said.

comparison.

The Premier League has pledged to give "full and due consideration" to any proposal by Wimbledon - currently ground sharing with Crystal Palace - to move to Dublin. The Football Association

voiced its concern when the scheme was originally suggested, but Rick Parry, the Premier League chief executive, said yesterday: "If Wimbledon do come forward with a formal proposition we would give it full and due consideration, as we would any innovative proposal."

Alan Thompson, the Bolton midfielder, has been given a three-match ban after passing 21 disciplinary points.

French players suspended after failing drug tests

Three French players, including two internationals, have failed drug tests this season, the na-tional federation said yesterday. Claude Simonet, the federation president, confirmed reports in the sports daily l'Equipe about the three cases, but suggested so-called recreational drugs were involved and that a habit of using banned sub-there was no evidence to suggest stances," he said. "There is no players were trying to cheat.

Bordeaux's reserve goal-

keeper, Franck Fontan, was

suspended for two months on

Thursday, but no action has yet

results of B sample tests. Simonet declined to say which drugs were involved.
There are two separate problems. There are players who try to enhance their performances

and others who are victims of widespread taking of perfor-mance-enhancing substances here. I don't think we are talking about cheats in these cases." Barthez, who failed his test retirement was due to serious been taken against the other two after a league match in Nantes personal problems.

players - Fabien Barthez and on 3 October, refused to com-Stephane Paille - pending the ment. The Monaco goalkeeper. who won the European Cup with Marseille two years ago, is currently second choice behind Bernard Lama in the national

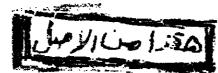
> Paille, a much-travelled international striker who has played for Porto in Portugal and Servette in Switzerland, retired from the sport after failing a test on 23 September, following a Second Division game with Niort, but he told l'Equipe his

Simonet said the B sample tests requested by both players had been taken and that the results were expected this week. Fontan was found to be positive after the Bordeaux v Montpellier match on 22 September, when he was selected for a random test even though he was

only on the substitutes' bench. Álain Affielou, the Bordeaux president, said Fontan would not be paid for the two months of his suspension. "It's unacceptable," he said. "I take this very badly because when you're 21 and a professional, you

should be careful. By letting himself go at a party, he's pe-nalised the team and damaged the reputation of the club. Last year, another French

player, Stephane Ziani of Bastia, was handed a one-month suspended ban after failing a drug test while playing for Nantes. Simonet said he was alarmed by the trend. "I think we're going to have to start a campaign to encourage players to protect their health," he said. "I'm giving this some thought. We'll tackle the problem in the new year."



To drop Carling might seem harsh, as he has not been having the easiest of times, but De Glanville is entitled to justice too

Jack Rowell has always impressed quently confirmed by the statements me as a sensitive soul who conceals of some of the players concerned.

While against South Africa they a normal Callard game. Alas, he is able to show a speed and penetrajocularity and a series of jokes that were dispirited, playing a side who are slightly above the heads of his were well below their best but who audience. I cannot imagine he likes:
would have won by 25 points if Joel
being jeered – which of us does –
Stransky had been in normal kickas he was at Leicester last Saturday.

knowledge, was never the object of the scorn of the mob. But then, Cooke's team had never, I think, lost three matches in succession, as

force of nature in Jonah Lomu. Victor Ubogu. Against France, in the play-off for Poor to shocking Mike Catt, third place in the World Cup, they Tim Rodber and Revy Underwood didn't seem to be trying very hard: Perhaps it is a bit unfair to put an impression which was subse-

ing form. I have compiled a class-list laglio, Phil de Glanville, Jeremy Guscott, Damian Hopley, Martin

Perhaps it is a bit unfair to put Callard in the second division. He able to show a speed and penetration with Bath which clude him with

iest player in English rugby - has Geoff Cooke, to the best of my of the England players in that match: demonstrated these qualities at the knowledge, was never the object of the scorn of the mob. But then, field, Ben Clarke, Lawrence Dalmised place-kicker. Mike Caut could assume these essential duties if he

Rowell's side have against New Johnson and Mark Regan.

Zealand, France and South Africa.

Against New Zealand, they were confronted by a better side and a son Leonard, Andy Robinson and Callard, Will Carling, Jaconfronted by a better side and a son Leonard, Andy Robinson and water representations of the brought in, such as Paul Grayson or David Pears – unless he is in one of his sadly regular states of inner This would proular states of injury. This would provide the option of moving Catt to his former England position of full-back. inflicted. It arises from first play-



ing Catt out of his club position, and in not securing adequate cover for move to Newcastle, it was evident that Andrew was going to retire be-The difficulty is mainly self- fore long, yet little was done to proHowever, the threequarter prospects look brighter. Hopley impressed the television viewers more, too often, and should depart to make Rowntree or even Kevin Yates on perhaps, than he did those who were at Twickenham. This was because Adedayo Adebayo, Jon Sleighthis spirit and determination were apparent on the screen, whereas his lack of true pace was not. Still, those former qualities are not in such generous supply that Rowell can afford to discard them.

In the centre, there is now a clear nation of De Glanville and Guscott. whose return to something like their old form has not been celebrated as joyfully as it should. To I'll catch it." drop Carling might seem barsh. particularly as he has not been having the casiest of times lately, but then De Glanville e is entitled to

holme, or that curiously neglected figure Steve Hackney.

Unlike many observers, I did not think Bracken had a particularly bad game against South Africa. He has been criticised for always passing to Catt, instead of kicking or making case for playing the Bath combi- a break on his own. But scrum-halves are not there to be nursemaids. As Barry John once said to Gareth Edwards: "Just throw me the ball, and

With the forwards, the problem

though he was, has been asleep once head and bringing in Graham way for either his brother. Tony, the other side. But with Clarke now assured of his favourite spot, the flankers are the worry.

I have never been able to understand why Wasps persist in playing Dallaglio at No 6. His speed, as he has shown in Sevens particularly, make him a natural No 7. I should he wants to play No 8.

Happily, Robinson provided one more demonstration of the modern truth that in international rugby short flankers sink beneath the waves, I should bring in Dallaglio at No ? - as it always seems to be these days and give another chance to Steve Ojo-- is the precise composition of the moh, who has never yet let England back row. There is, admittedly, a lit- down, at No 6. But I do not expect tle trouble in the front row too: a Rowell to play the slightest attention.

Northern pride threatens to demolish Samoans

The auguries are inauspicious for Western Samoa when they play the North of England at Huddersfield's McAlpine Stadium tonight, a match that threatens to give the tourists' midweek team the sort of roasting they received in Scotland.

prove because they believe themselves underrepresented at England level and have given a hostage to fortune by saying so, while the Samoans will field not a single one of the side

writes Steve Bale. -.

1 . . . 5 Table 385

This will almost certainly

mean a world-record atten-

of their sponsorship, yesterday raised their combined annual

1976, it began at £3,000 each.

contribution to £175,000. In

roundly thrashed by North and Midlands, the weakest of the Scots districts, the fate that may lie in store at Britain's Building of the Year hardly bears thinking about. "This tour is becoming a hard experience for us," Bryan Williams,
Samoa's coach, sighed.

After his side had beaten
London last week, Williams

The North have a point to gently conceded that some of his lesser players were not yet up to the task of international rug-by, and it has to be said that all of these will be playing tonight. To exacerbate the situation for

No cash blues for universities

amateurism, but with the 114th that it used to be said that the until the moratorium ends at the

Yesterday's selection brings

Spencer gained his Blue as a

epic 1994 victory, only to be in-

games for London Broncos.

He was eventually readmitted

to rugby union before time when the RFU kindly consented to ac-

who has replaced Jonathan

tured his cheekbone during the defeat by Sheffield Eagles on Sunday and will be out for the

Salford, Oldham and Widnes

have all shown interest in the Hull prop, Tim Street, who is transfer-listed at £80,000. The only solid

offer for the much-travelled for-

ward has come from Chorley. Hull say that it could be as long as a formight before they

'armounce their new coach, de-

rest of the season.

ement during Cambridge's

phasised the divisional pride of the North-something that elsewhere has gone out of fashion.

The North's particular beef against the England selectors is about the paucity of northern representation in the A-team who will play Samoa next Tuesday, University match day, a sensation heightened by the North's success in this season's Divisional Championship.

Whichever of the North and Midlands wins the match between them at Nottingham on Saturday will win the CIS trophy but the North have only two, compared with the Souththe islanders, the North captain, West's six, of the choice for the Paul Johnson, yesterday em- A game at Gateshead. "The

ment, instead of having to wait

end of the season. Spencer is likely to be on the bench again.

OUTOFICE P dat Preuz (Queen's School Queen-stoni, Dicesten Col Cape Tour, Sallenjooth they as Rebby; 35 Reads (Jamess, Loughborough libre 2 Mensield, Q die Strage (Dicessen Col Cape Town, Cape Town Inte & Kolley J. Flenniet (Spois in Henri Park, Soptome Univ & Hollay L. Flenniet (Spois in Henri Park, Soptome Univ & Hollay S. Plenniet (Spois in Henri Park, Soptome Univ & Hollay S. Plenniet (Spois in Henri Park). Soptome Univ & Hollay S. Plenniet (Spois in Henri Park). Soptome Univ & Hollay S. Plenniet (Spois in Henri Park). Soptome Univ Bellay S. Scool & Bellay Ren & General V. School Bellay & S. Crook & Bellay Ren & General V. School

Paris, Sorborne Univ & Mansfeld, "Thomas (Ban-bridge Acad, St Andrews Univ & Kelse), capit; to bismiphrays. (Sallyment Acad, Queen's Univ Better, & St Creat, M. Sedler (Ming Elseed VI School - uchiled & St Schmund Hall); C Mercon (St Andrews Coll Getternstonen, Stellenberg Unif & Notice), it Swobode, (Demonial School Bellendis, Togrand Univ Queen's Lien's Wrate & Templesons); "D-Passey Micrat Peerl School, Newfordader," "D-Passey Micrat Peerl School, Newfordader," "D-Passey

* & Wolfscrif, In Beassen (Dicesera Coli Cape Town, Statistinscript Links & S. Cloud, "P Convenery (Con-gones Wood Coli Misiere, Cork Univ Coli & New Colleget, It Relify St. General & School Bey, Tim-ky Col Dubin & St. Arms's), "R Ynabstey (Hot-emischers' Aster's & Keble), Iff Ocaler (Ging's Carlettury & Chies Crusto), "AMERICATE" In Struke Theoliffic Retron (Ink. & CAMERICATE).

car servury or Cristo Chutch).

CAMERIDGE: N. Stagler (Nycolific, Bristo) Univ. & Homerton); D. Chesedo (Propietorio, Neucoscie Univ. & St. Edipund's), T. Waltiford (The Leys, Leods Univ. & Homerton); S. Cottoni (Christ's Cott Christotuch, Olego Univ. & St. Edimand's, capt), "M. Waldes (Caerleon) Comp. & St. Cartinand's, capt), "M. Waldes (Caerleon) Comp. & St. Cartinand's, capt).

ness tests have been carried out.

players are bound to be disap-

pointed and I can sympathise

with them," Stan Bagshaw, the

North team secretary, said. Last night David Baldwin, the

Sale lock, withdrew from the

North team with a groin injury.

Matthew Greenwood moved

up from the back row into the

place he rejuctantly fills for

Wasps, with Richard Arnold,

Meanwhile Swansea play

Castres, last season's French

Championship runners-up in a

critical European Cup game at

St Helen's tonight and will go

out of the inaugural competition

if they lose. Injuries mean the Swansea team cannot be fi-nalised until a number of late fit-

Newcastle's New Zealander.

coming into the back row.

(Sale), N Asharat (Sale).
WEST HARTLEPOOL: A Autagawala (Subutta), T Fa'alusso (Polos), S Lasaga (Subutta), K Tuigamala (Sopol), F Fereti (App).
C Barnes (Unvestly), M Vaes (Marist); B Reldy (Media) St Parick's), O Mataualiss (Mostaia), G Lata (Vaimoso), S Lemannes (Sopol), M Birtwistle (Subutta, capt), L Ta'ala (Polos), S Salth (Heiensele), M Is-

- TODAY'S NUMBER

29.2m

The annual income in sterling of the basketball player Michael Jordan - the world's highest-paid sportsman for the fourth year in a row. Only £2.6m comes from his salary at the Chicago Buils, the resi is off-court earnings.



Record breaker: Kansas City's Marcus Allen, who topped 10,000 rushing yards against Oakland

Cowboys give critics more rope

American football MATT TENCH

The last time the Dallas Cowboys lost at home the local media reacted with all the understanding of a spurned royal lover. It was all Barry's fault, they said, this being the same Barry Switzer that had been in charge as the Cowboys had established themselves as the best team in the NFL

to the San Francisco 49ers, was to the defending Super Bowl champions. Which makes you wonder how the Texan press are going to take the Cowboys' lat-est reverse, to the Washington Redskins, a team that has taken up a residency in the base-ment of the NFL East.

The 49ers' defeat was generally put down to poor coaching with Switzer, who had no experience in the pros before re-placing Jimmy Johnson as head coach 18 months ago, vilified as a country hick who was out-

Warwickshire have admitted to a delay

thought by those smart chaps of the San Francisco sideline.

That caricature can be expected to make a comehack this week, as the Cowboy camp fol-lowers seek to explain losing to a side they outshine in terms of that there are lies, damned lies talent in just about every de- and NFL medical bulletins.

Not that the result was a complete surprise. Nine weeks ago the Redskins became the first team to heat the Cowhovs this transform an ailing franchise. In fact the Redskins notched just one more win before travelling to Dallas on Sunday. Then history repeated itself.

Turner, who was the Cowboys offensive co-ordinator as they won two Super Bowls, was credited with the victory in October and was up to his tricks again, devising a defensive strategy that thwarted the revered Cowboys offense, while his attacking unit created enough running room for Terry Allen to rush for 98 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

Despite reports that he would be out for a month following injury in his last game, Emmitt Smith, the Cowboy running

The Redskins look like be-

The only NFC team with a

Wigan aiming to bridge gap Warrington's Gareth Davies,

All of which makes the Uni-versity match an inexplicable league, although the former Ali phenomenon of modern sport, Black John Gallagher could

The Oxbridge universities may more so than ever since rugby

be rugby union's last outposts of went professional. How ironic

University match at Twickenham students, either training or playjust a week away, they—with not a penny to pay in players' wages term, were the game's only
are coming it as never before, true professionals.

Yesterday, the captains were - an overdine Blue to the Cam-

in London to name their teams; bridge captain, Steve Cottrell,

with three old Blues turning out who withdrew on the morning for both Oxford and Cambridge of last year's match with a legas the Light Blues defend the injury. But Adrian Spencer's Bowring Bowl next Tuesday, equally overdue reinstatement

safe in the knowledge that 69,000 as a rivigby union amateur came tickets have already been sold, too late for his inclusion.

as at least £250,000 going to each stantly suspended for a year by

university from a gross match inthe Rugby Football Union when
come of £1m. In addition, C.T. it was discovered that he had
Bowring, to mark the 20th year played a couple of rugby league

Wigan are maintaining an inDavies in the centre following
terest in signing one rugby union
his return to South Wales, fracplayer and staging a ground-breaking contest against 15 oth-ers, writes Dave Hadfield. The club has been in preliminary talks with Junior Tomi, a half-back and All Black squad member.

Wigan have also had exploratory discussions with Bath about a double-header that would bridge the gap between the codes for the first time since the wartime challenges between the two. The sides would play at Bath under union rules and meet at Old Trafford in a retarn

spite reports in Australia that the former Australian Test full-back fixture in the 13-a-side format. Phil Sigsworth has got the job. Brebant given 12-match ban

Rick Brebant, the Durham Wasps player-coach, has been banned for 12 matches for his part in an incident which saw his Slough counterpart, Gary Stefan, suffer a facial injury on the

ice, writes Steve Pinder. Brebant, who will not be allowed to coach the team during the period of his suspension. was also given a severe reprimand and warned about his fu-

Having torn apart Notting-ham Panthers to win the Benson & Hedges Cup 5-2, Sheffield Steelers gave a repeat performance in the Premier Division against Slough Jets with a 14-3

hungover, letting a 3-1 lead against Fife Flyers slip to end in a 7-7 draw. The weekend's surprise result came from Milton Keynes Kings, who held Sheffield 3-3 last week, drew 6-6 in a thrilling game with Durham.

NRI-: Caroline 13 Indianapolis 10; Green Bay 24 Chrolmati 10; Mismi 21 Atlanta 20; Mismarent 31 Tampe Bay 17; New England 17 New Chierrs 31; NY Jets 20 St Louis 23; Prisburg 21; Houston 7; Delias 17 Whistington 24; Denwer 31, Jecticon 14; 23; Calsiand 23; Kartsus City 29; San Diego 31 Cleveland 13; Seemie 26 Philisolophie 14; San Francisco 27 Buffalo 17.

Pacific forced to withdraw

Another Formula One dream authorities and their withwin on Sunday. Panthers, in contrast, seemed

sponsorship payments left them in an untenable position and that was ended yesterday when the they would not be able to pro-Norfolk-based Pacific team pulled out of next season's championship, leaving only 11 teams on the starting grid, writes

Norfolk-based Pacific team duce the competitive package to overcome new qualifying rules.

Keith Wiggins, the managing director, said: "We have tried very like the package to overcome new qualifying rules." championship, leaving only 11 teams on the starting grid, writes Derick Allsop. Pacific struggled through two seasons, but it is understood they were a season to establish our position in Formula One, but due to the differential position we have it is understood they were un-able to meet the budget re-not been able to progress. Our quirements stipulated by the cash flow and credit position have been stretched to a point where drawal was not unexpected. I feel we cannot continue."

SPORTING DIGEST

GALFORNÍA INTERNATIONAL MARATHON Mese 1 B Descon (Cerl) 2it 13min 59sec; 2 P Zerstennen (US) 2:14:56; 3 / Orwong's (Ven) 2:15:22. Women: 1 M Reger (US) 2:32:46; 2 K MacLead (Sco) 2:34:23; 3 M Trujino (US) 2:34:46; 4 / Coby (Eng) 2:38:25.

Baskethall MBA: Venceuer 95 MB-roukse 109; Toron-to 94 Milem 112; New York 107 Weshing-fon 83; Cleveland 108 Dates 107 fot; Portland 93 Orlando 82; IA Lakers 104 Indiane 96. EASTERN CONFERM

7.30 unless state

7.30 Unless stated
UEFA CLP THIRD ROUND SECOND LSB
Lyon (C) v Nottingham Forest (1) (8.6).....
Other their Bernet (1) v Bayern Munch (4)
8.0; Wenter Branet (1) v PSV Enrichmen (2)
(5.30); Rome (1) v Brenthy (2); Baselona (1)
v Seelle (1) (8.0); Lans (0) v Stane Prague (0).
PARSILIPAN LEAGUE FREST OWNSION
MERINAL v Charlon (7.45) CHOINE V BRIMING CRY.

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE PRIST DIVISION
Dursdee V Dursbarton
OM VALDOHALL CONFERENCE Speking Challange Cap second rounds Bromiginus Rowers
V Tellord Und (7.45); Morecambe V Altrachem
7.45) (7.45).

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE Premier Divinions Hastings v Suchusy Town. De Hastinas Cup finst round tecond fees Ving's Lyrn (0) v Ruchden (1). Second round: Baldock v Margans; Basting v Towbridge: Brighton'ty whoor Green; Buckgram Youn v Cambridge City, Cheuminan v Goods v Cambridge City, Cheuminan v Goodser; Eastham v Bastin; Gasestend v Cambridge: Company Cambridge City.

Ingrem Town v Cambridge Cay, Chebenhem v Goucoser, Eventon v Batton; Geneton v Cawley; Beedon v Fisheldey Town; Tonbridge v Fisher; Welseloutife v Fisher; Welseloutife v Fisher; Welseloutife v Fisher; Welseloutife v Fisher; Calva Bay v Acothegon Starter; Barnber Bridge v Lancaster; Calvaboracie; Trantity of Principy Ambietic; Laek v Eastwood Town; Sponnymoor v Ensier; Laek v Eastwood Town; Laek v Ensier; Laek v Eastwood Town; Laek v Ensier; Laek v Ensier; Laek v Eastwood Town; Laek v Ensier; Laek v E

CASTLE CUP (Final day of four; Port Size-beth; Eastern Province 452 for 3 dec and 139 for 8 dec (N Wessels 51; C Henderson 4-71). Boland 326 and 109 for 4. Martch drawn. TOUR MATCH (Final day of four; Lumnession, Aust; Tismania 335 for 4 and 273 for 5 ee (T Day 62no, Tucker 60no); Sh Lanka 369 and 180 for 2 (C Hathurusmighe 61no). Mutch drawn.

Brighton's FA Cup second-round replay against Fulham has been moved from Tuesday, 12 December to Thursday 14 December (7.45pm) because of live

INTERLINK EXPRESS MEDIAND ALLIANCE Biolemail v Armtage: Pershore v Harckley Athletic; Rushall v Chasetten; Shaingl v Oldbury. JEWISON EASTERN LEAGUE Promier Dive

V POPULL LEAGUE OF WALES League Cup first round Pontines of Westers. Seepin on the Children of Section of Con-Pontines LEAGUE First Division: Blackburn v Bolton (7.0) for Presson North End; Notice Coun-ty Useppol (7.0); Sredied Wednesday v Sheffield UM (7.0) for Northam LEO, Second Division: Burniey v Presson (7.15); Manchesser City v Hull City (6.45); Port Valle v Country (7.0). Tailed Di-vision: Chestarried v Rochdale (7.0). VISION: CRESTANCE OF ROCKIES (7.0).
AVON INSURANCE CONSIDERATION (7.0)
FA YOUTH CUP Second round: Other Americ
v You City (7.0); Deby County Denositer Revers
(7.0); Bestdord v Easter City (7.0); Pymouth Argde v Eastloigh.

Rugby Union FIVE NATIONS HERIENCH CUP Pool D: Swan-age v Castre (7.0).

Mark Greatbatch and Shane Thomson have been left out of the New Zealand squad to play Pakisten in the one-off lest this week. Martin Crowe is injured while the Auckland batsman Craig Spearman and the all-rounder Nathan Aste are in the Test squad for the first time. The wicketkeeper Howard "Hopper" Levett, who played 142 matches for Kent between 1930 and 1947, has died at the age of 87. He took 283 catches, made 195 stumpings and played one Test for England in India in 1933-34.

Rugby League
Sak Cill CHALLENGE CLP Second-round dent.
Saddieworth v Heavorth: Wgan St. Patricks v West
Saddieworth v Heavorth: Wgan St. Patricks v West
Saddieworth v Heavorth: Wgan St. Patricks v West
Saddieworth v Heavorth: Wgan St. Patricks v Most
Legy Marco; Clotten St. Armes v Marco Heath;
Thornial v Hernel Hernosteact. Lock Lane v Bovetter (Files in the absent meethervol file 17.17 Inch

Rugby Union
LENSTER (v Postypridd, Heineken Cop, Lettsdowne Rand, temorrow); C O'Shen (Lordon Ism'; P Cardon Roberto, V Caraingham (St May's Cott), K McQuillain (Becter, V Caraingham (St May's Cott), K McQuillain (Becter, Rongers), N Wroods; A McGlowen, A Rapland (all Baciroch Coft); H Hustey (Kid Wesley), S Byrne, P Wellane (both Backroch Cott), B Rigney (Sharmon), N Francia (Did Bevedere), C Pim (Old Wesley, capt), S Raomey (Laradowne), V Costrello (St May's Cot).

SKRING
WORLD CUP Woman's downhill (Lake Louise, Cam, Sunday); I P Street (US), Imm 26.61sec; 2 K Secreger Ger) 1:27.00; 3 W Zeienskap Rus) 1:27.50; 4 B Peter (U 1:27.55; 5 M Summermatiler (Swit) 1:27.55; 6 I Kostner (It) 1:27.61; 7 M Dortmester (Lau) 1:27.65; 8 C Morabet (Fig. R Gasson) (Jun) 1:27.65; 30 A Messiciary (Fig. 1:27.68; 36 Leanach 4:5 P Wilter (Swit) 1:28.07. Overall World Cap strandings (utter three recent): 1 Seizinger 180; 2 Street (US) 1:24; 3 M Eri (Ger) 1:15.

Squash
CLIB LA SANTA BRITISH UNDER-22 CHAMP-IONSHIP Quotingham, Sundayl; Men's final; M Barret: (Yorks) to N Dugar (Bucks) 9-3-9-0.
Wompar's final C. Jacoman (Norlob) bi Y Shermon (Staffs) 9-7-9-0-9-1.

Swimming Great Britain 100k two silver medals - Hert-fordshire's Neil Willey in the 100m back-

stroke and lan Wilson of Leeds in the 1500m freestyle - to double their medals tally on the final day of the World Short Course Championships in Ruo de

Britain's Jamie Delgado, Nick Gould and Andrew Richardson, the three members of the LTA Laing squad formed a week ago under the American coach Peter Flem-ing, all won titles at the weekend. Del-gado, 18, won on the UAE Satelitie circuit in Dubai; Gould, 23, on the Portuguese Setellite Circuit in Faro; and Richardson, 21, won the doubles at the ATP Challenger

coming the latest NFL team to move home, though their departure hardly ranks alongside some of the recent relocations. year, a victory their head coach Jack Kent Cooke, the Cowboys an agreement to build a stadium in Maryland, five miles from their much-loved but economically obsolete RFK Stadium home in the nation's capital. The Cowboys retain the best

record in their conference, but should they lose again and the San Francisco 49ers continue their winning streak to the end of the season, their meeting in the NFC Championship game (a formality, surely) would take place in the Bay Area rather than downtown Dallas.

backer Lee Woodall returned a fumble recovery 96 yards for a TD. Woodall, a rising star in an increasingly impressive defense. finished with 10 tackles, one sack, one forced fumble, one fumble recovery as well as his score - the seventh TD the 49er defense has scored this season.

hone of challenging the 49ers and Cowboys are the Green Bay is performing weekly miracles. Favre threw for three TDs as the Packers beat Cincinnati 24-10. The Kansas City Chiefs and

Pittsburgh Steelers won their divisional titles in the AFC, with Marcus Allen entitled to a particularly smug grin after the Chiefs 29-23 victory in Oakland. Allen was an oustanding running back for the Raiders before falling out big-time with the owner, Al Davis. He belied his 35 years to rush for 124 yards to lessen Davis's chances of an-The 49ers were held until the other a Super Bowl this season.

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MARADONA'S DREAM IS OVER

More and more fans feel that his new hairstyle represents what it to a yellow streak. Phil Davison on the decline and fall of a legend

645 minutes, 492 balls, 185 runs

Atherton's innings of his life saves England

Cricket

MARTIN JOHNSON reports from Johannesburg South Africa 332 and 346-9 dec England 200 and 351-5

Before this tour is out, Jack Russell is planning to take his paints and easel out to the old colonial garrison at Rorke's Drift, but as far as he and Michael Atherton are now concerned, they have already been there and picked up their VCs.

This was behind-the-sandbag heroism on an epic scale, and it was just about possible to close your eyes yesterday and imagine Ivor Emmanuel in his tattered tunic, belting out a chorus of "Men of Harlech."

When Ted Dexter was the CO, he liked his men buttoned to the neck and clean-shaven, but if Atherton was grimy and bestubbled last night, he could justifiably claim that his cheeks were baby-faced before he start-

Ten and three-quarter hours he held out after walking in to bat in an apparently hopeless cause on Monday morning, although even then it would not have been enough without Russell's four and a half hour support at the other end. All too often Atherton has led from the front, and then looked around to find no one behind him. But not this time.

Heaven only knows what a batsman thinks about for nearly 11 hours, but you got the impression that it was neither his girlfriend's impending arrival, nor what he was going to have for dinner. Atherton's face was so screwed up in concentration it looked like a road map, and it was one of the finest rearguard innings that can ever have been played.

You would have given Lucifer's cat more of a chance than England yesterday morning, setting off as they did from 167

Wanderers scoreboard

vance than scoring another 312 runs. However, while 14,000 people turned up at the start anticipating celebrating victory in this second Test sometime before lighting the lunchtime barbeques, most of them had trudged home long before South Africa finally

threw in the towel. England, scarcely surprisingly, needed a certain amount of luck to survive, and by no means the least important fac-tor was that the pitch – despite its movable cracks - did not misbehave anything like as badly as expected after that first morng cock-up over the toss.

Robin Smith had barely played himself back in yesterday morning when he survived a huge appeal for a catch behind off Allan Donald, Atherton gave a sharp chance to short leg off Donald on 99, and Russell had been in less than half an hour for 5 when Meyrick Pringle spilled a routine return catch

Russell then proceeded to drive the South Africans half-way up the wall with that uniquely ugly method of his. While Atherton played the game properly, with a bat apparently the width of a barn door, Russell did not give a hoot whether he used his equipment or not, and there were times when he appeared to be playing almost exclusively with the cheeks of his bottom. Much more of Russell in

this series, and the South Africans will be less in need of a physio than a psychiatrist. Peering square-eyed behind sunglasses and a visor, Russell sand-crabbed across the crease, brought out the shovel shot whether he intended to play the ball or not, and, as Atherton said, played every delivery as though his life depended on it.

The fact that scoring runs was not uppermost in their minds was pretty obvious from the statistics. Atherton failed to score off 385 of the 492 balls he faced, as did Russell from 221

for 4, with the remaining six hours of his 235. Even Trevor Bailey on the clock of far greater relemight have considered 104 balls for eight runs between lunch and tea a bit of a grind, and had Russell gone on to make a century at the rate he was going, he would have taken 16 and a half

hours to get there.

It was perhaps ironic that in the midst of all this trench warfare, the only wicket to fall all day was to a full-blooded slash to third man by Smith. However, it is not easy to stop playing shots altogether even when you cannot realistically win, and some of Atherton's strokeplay was delightful to watch.

The opposition may not have thought so, judging from one or two pieces of dialogue going on out there, and neither did South Africa do themselves much credit by ignoring Atherton when he had been felled - mishooking by Pringle, and had to call for a

There is something in Atherton's make-up, though, which makes him all the more focused when the cricket is not too chivalrous. You could persuade a mule to budge more quickly when he is feeling bloody-minded, and, purely by example, is helping England get rid of the one basic flaw that has characterised their Test cricket in recent years. If you cannot win,

Atherton was honest enough to admit that England had played "poorly" for four days, and would have to "sharpen up their act" if they were actually going to win matches rather than save them. Putting South Africa in was the wrong deci-sion," he said, "and I felt I probably owed the lads an innings after that."

His chairman, however, was so delighted with him that last night Atherton might have achieved something even more improbable than batting 10 and three-quarter hours, and had Raymond buy him a drink. Illingworth said: "It's not easy for a Yorkie to say this about a Lancastrian, but it was one of the great innings of all time. This is a big up for us, and it's got to be a big down for South

South Africa, needless to say, did not quite see it that way. Hansie Crouje, their captain, déscribed Atherton's innings as a "good knock", which was a bit like saying that Mozart knocked that his team were "not disappointed" at the outcome.

Atherton, though, is a man who looks at the enemy's expression rather than his dictionary, and Cronje's declaration of buoyancy did not quite square with a pair of eyes that looked as though they had spent several days on a fishmonger's slab.



crowd yesterday after reaching his century Photograph: Rebecca Naden/PA

foe salute captain Friend and foe joined forces last night to salute Mike Atherton after the England captain had produced one of the inest Test nings of all time. Atherton, was at the crease

Friend and

for 15 minutes short of 11 hours while compiling his highest Test score to date. It earned a hug from Raymond Hingworth, although the manager - tongue in cheek - later insisted: "I just gave him a gentle handshake, that's all, but it was a tremendon's performance by both Mike and Jack [Russell]."

Every member of the South African team trooped into the visitors' dressing-room to congratulate Atherton and his part-

ner, Russell. "Atherton's innings was one of the great rearguard actions," Bob Woolmer, the South African coach, said. "Our bowlers performed magnificently, kept trying to the end, but you have to give him great

Atherton looked as though he could have carried on all night if necessary. "I feel pretty fresh at the moment," he said. "The adrenalin flows when you are out there, but I expect I'll be tired later on.

"Jack and I just took it bal by ball, trying to give every deal hvery 100 per cent concentra-tion. He's a player who's go immense concentration and la played every ball as though his life depended on it."

For Russell, in particular, defeat would have been almost too much to bear. The England wicketkeeper took part in a similar operation with Robin Smith against the West Indies in Barbados nearly six years ago which ended in failure.

"I didn't want to go through what happened there again," Russell said. "We geed up each er and if one of us was looking a bit lazy we had a go at one another. We had a bit of luck, but we were determined to be there at the end. It's great to save the game from the position we were in."

Wha

The co

The Top 10 T

(88 min, 76 balls, 4 fours)
M R Ramprelessh b McVillen....
(2 min, 2 balls)
G P Thorpe Bur b Pringle....
(120 min, 84 balls, 2 fours)
G A Hick e Richardson b Dorald
(19 min, 17 balls, 1 four)
R A Smith e Politock b Donald
(133 min, 111 balls, 8 fours)
R C Russell not out...
(276 min, 235 balls, 3 fours)
Extras (b.4, b) Jrid23)
Total (for 5, 645 min, 165 over

dec (B M McMillan 190ns, D J Cull J N Rhodes 57; D G Cork 4-78)

1-0-Ö 1-1-O-O).
Progress: Fifth day: New ball taken after 80.3 at 1352-4, 200t; 334 mins, 82.4 outes, 250t; 407 mins, 96.4 outes, 150t; 407 mins, 96.4 outes, 150t; 509 mins, 128.3 outes, 150t; 509 mins, 128.3 outes, 150t; 500 mins, 150t; 600 mins, 15

Supplement D B Hair and K E Liebenberg, Management D B Hair and K E Liebenberg, Management and R C Russell.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

ACROSS Key match - for Joan, say?

- ldiot takes in nothing of TV programme (4)
- Appropriate format for nocturne? (5,5) 10 Sound of a measure of noise on line (4)
- 12 We will graduate taking cut finely adjusted (4-8) 15 Contractors for Canary Wharf had this difficult
- task? (4,5) 17 Drab uniform colour (5) 18 Hiding place of endless
- prestige (5)
 19 Beautify a piece of wood according to verbal do's and don is (9)
- 20 The beginning of endless remark on building materi-
- 24 One has point in rejecting European tip in outside cooking (4)
- Sage's mode of existence? One refusing to strike has, in short, gone to advice 27 Don't try to use such an

imprisoning (10) DOWN

specialist (4) Dear (?) means of getting into correspondence (6-6)

Showing no difference in the quality (5) Rib broken by vehicle reversing up to taxi? Rub-bish! (4-1-4)



Take too much money when about to replenish battery (10) Thing for making founda-tions is stacked by the

Thames? (4-6)
11 Sailor could be late on joining Navy, a will-o'-the-wisp (4-1-7) 13 Keep supply of diced things which cook needs? (5,5)

Liberal has abandoned the whip (4)
 Boss dismisses one kitchen
 Transport lags behind in this (5.5)
 The working out of a dis-

count (9) Tree in Burma pleases (5) 22 King cuts into pastry to find fish (4) 23 Abandoned socialist (4)

Other great rearguard actions in Test history

1953 Watson and Bailey

The obvious comparison to yesterday's events. England, batting again against Lindwall, Miller, Johnston and Benaud at Lond's, 340 behind, were 73 for 4 when Trevor Bailey Joined Willie Wat-son at 12.42 on the last day. As a stand de-veloped the nation stopped. Test Match Special, on radio, had an audience of Diana-like proportions. The pair defied Australia for almost five hours, Watson scoring 109, Bailey 71, until falling with 40 minutes remaining, England, though, were able to hang on with three wickets standing.

1957 Ramadhin and Valentine Cowdrey and May v

England were 230 behind when they started again against the West Indies at Sabine Park, Kingster and in danger at 107 for 3. Dennis Amiss hatted 570 minutes for his 262 not out in Which he had invaluable help from No. 10, Par 10008 who scored four singles in 83 minutes and to Willis, who made six in 53 minutes. They are the West Indies had no time to chase widow

Ramadhin and Valentine ing notably by lighter Suning and Suning Su innings and was never again the invincible sor- India needing 15 with two wickets standing soor

Captains' innings for England

astonishing 63.

Tennyson makes a single-handed defence

The Hon Lionel Tennyson, grandson of Victoria's Poet Laureate, captained Hampshire captains, led against a West indies side (where the wicketkeeper was his butter) and giving England what Jandine had just given (where the wicketkeeper was his butter) and England in three matches in a stormy series against all-conquering Australia. He split his hand fielding at Leeds but insisted on batting at No 9, driving, one-handed, the thunthe Donald and Malcom of their time, for an

West Indies' bodyline

tralia: fast podyline. Leane Constantine and Manny Martindale, with a covey of close leg fielders, ratiled the inchings. Wally Dammond retired with a cut chin but Jardine, cool and imperious, scored derbolts of Jack Gregory and Ted McDonald, 127, in cap and pads, no helmet, no body grands.

Selko Kinefic^a The first and only quartz waich that generates its own energy from your levery. movement. The perpetual accuracy of quartz suturally without a battery. Its tiny powerhouse converts even your slightest movement into electrical impulses. Ecologically sound and ultimately reliable. Seiko Kinetic is so efficient that you only need to wear it for one day to ensure enough energy reserves to last at least a week. Wear it continuelly and it will never let you down it's built to less. Someday all watches will be made this way.